

TURKEY. No. 3 (1891).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN THE EAST.

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 2 (1891)": C. 6259.]

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
April 1891.*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	To Mr. Fane	June 17, 1890	Alleged massacre of Christians by Arnauts at Cossova. Is there any foundation for statements in "Manchester Guardian" telegram?	1
2	Consul-General Blunt	Telegraphic	July 2,	Murder of Servian Consul at Pristina. Reports ..	1
3	Mr. Baring ..	..	June 26,	State of affairs on Turco-Montenegrin frontier not satisfactory ..	1
4	Mr. O'Conor ..	..	28	Major Panitza shot in the presence of the garrison ..	2
5	" "	..	28,	Appointment of Bulgarian Bishops at Uskub and Ochrida. Bulgarian Government hope Her Majesty's Government will support their application to Porte for ..	2
6	Consul-General Blunt	Telegraphic	July 4,	Murder of Servian Consul. Murderer arrested, and investigation being conducted by Turkish authorities ..	3
7	Mr Haggard ..	..	June 30,	Demand of Bulgarian Government for Prince Ferdinand's recognition, and establishment of Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia. Greek Government's attitude towards ..	3
8	" "	..	30,	Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia. Greek Government have no objection to if they publicly declare themselves schismatics from Orthodox Church ..	3
9	" "	..	30,	State of Thessaly under Greek dominion compared unfavourably with its former condition under Turkey ..	3
10	Consul-General Blunt	..	July 2,	Alleged massacre of Christians by Arnauts at Cossova. Letters from Sir D. Wallace and Mr. Macgowan regarding ..	4
11	Mr. Fane ..	..	2,	Ditto. Porte has not yet received answer called for from provincial authorities ..	5
12	To Mr. Fane ..	Telegraphic	7,	Bulgarian note to Porte not supported by Her Majesty's Government on account of demand for Prince Ferdinand's recognition. Advise Porte to treat Bulgaria favourably in ecclesiastical questions ..	5
13	To Mr. O'Conor ..	..	8,	Appointment of Bulgarian Bishops at Uskub and Ochrida. Approves language reported in No. 5 ..	5
14	Mr. Baring ..	..	2,	Affairs on Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Complaints of Turkish authorities against Montenegrins ..	6
15	Sir A. Paget ..	..	9,	Bulgarian note to Porte. Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has received same instructions as Her Majesty's Representative ..	6
16	Mr. O'Conor ..	..	7,	Address to Bulgarian Exarch. Liberation of those arrested for signing it, except M. Stanchoff ..	6
17	Mr. Fane ..	Telegraphic	11,	Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia. Italian Ambassador instructed to join in recommendation to Porte respecting ..	7
18	To Mr. O'Conor ..	Telegraphic	11,	Her Majesty's Government cannot support application for Prince Ferdinand's recognition, but are endeavouring to induce Porte to redress Bulgarian ecclesiastical grievances in Macedonia ..	7
19	To Mr. Fane ..	Telegraphic	11,	Ecclesiastical question in Macedonia. Instructs him to act in concert with Austrian and Italian Representatives in the matter ..	7
20	Mr. Fane ..	..	8,	Bulgarian note to Porte. Transmits copy of fresh note, explaining and softening down the former note ..	8
21	" "	Telegraphic	13,	Ecclesiastical question in Macedonia. Italian Ambassador has acted on his instructions ..	8
22	" "	Telegraphic	13,	Ditto. German Ambassador has informed Porte that his Government approve advice given by Great Britain, Italy, and Austria ..	9

No.	Name	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
23	Mr. Baring ..	..	July 6, 1890	Affairs on Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Details respecting ..	9
24	M. Yovitchich ..	..	3,	Murder of Servian Vice-Consul at Pristina. Gives account of. Requests Her Majesty's Government to use their influence to secure satisfaction to Servia ..	10
25	Mr. Fane ..	..	12,	Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Border warfare between Montenegrins and Albanians. Satisfactory assurances given by Montenegro to Turkey ..	11
26	Mr. Baring ..	..	9,	Ditto. Conversation with M. Vukovitch respecting ..	12
27	Mr. Fane ..	..	Telegraphic 17,	Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia. Issue of Berats authorized by Sultan, but not to take effect till His Majesty is satisfied Bulgaria will make no further demands ..	12
28	" " ..	..	Telegraphic 19,	Ditto. Assurance given by himself and Austrian Ambassador that respective Governments will urge Bulgarian Government to be prudent..	12
29	To Mr. Fane ..	..	Telegraphic 20,	Grant of Berats to Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia. Instructs him to repeat above assurance officially..	13
30	Sir A. Paget ..	..	19,	Ditto. Views of Count Kálnoky ..	13
31	Mr. Fane ..	..	Telegraphic 21,	Ditto. Austrian Ambassador has received similar instructions ..	13
32	To M. Yovitchich ..	..	22,	Murder of Servian Vice-Consul at Pristina. Her Majesty's Government cannot intervene pending result of inquiry ..	13
33	Mr. Baring ..	..	17,	Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Improved state of affairs ..	13
34	" " ..	..	17,	Turkish land-owners in Montenegro. Turkish Government pressing for settlement of question ..	14
35	Mr. O'Connor ..	..	12,	Ecclesiastical question in Macedonia. Thanks of Bulgarian Government for Her Majesty's Government's friendly attitude ..	14
36	Consul-General Blunt ..	..	17,	Brigandage in Macedonia. Rumoured formation of band in Thessaly for carrying on ..	14
37	Mr. Fane ..	..	14,	Ecclesiastical question in Macedonia. Records action taken respecting ..	15
38	" " ..	..	18,	Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Is assured that order has been restored ..	16
39	Sir A. Paget ..	..	22,	Duke Ernest of Saxe-Coburg has not been in Vienna, nor in communication with Count Kálnoky as to Prince Ferdinand's abdication	16
40	Mr. Baring ..	..	21,	Assurances of Prince of Montenegro as to his peaceful intentions ..	16
41	Mr. F. R. St. John ..	..	24,	Murder of Servian Vice-Consul at Pristina. Reply of Porte to Servian demands ..	16
42	Mr. Fane ..	..	26,	Ecclesiastical question in Macedonia. Gratitude of Bulgarian Government for Her Majesty's Government's support ..	17
43	Sir W. White ..	..	Telegraphic 30,	Issue of Berats to Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia. Sultan's authorization received by Sublime Porte ..	17
44	Vice-Consul Lamb ..	..	24,	Alleged massacre of Christians by Arnauts at Cossova. Information respecting ..	17
45	Mr. F. R. St. John ..	..	27,	Relations between Servia and Bulgaria. Conversation with General Gruitch on ..	18
46	M. Yovitchich ..	..	Aug. 1,	Murder of Servian Vice-Consul at Pristina. Servian Government asks for compensation to family. Hopes Her Majesty's Government will support this ..	18
47	Consul-General Blunt	..	Telegraphic 4,	Reported outrage by Arnauts on Salonica-Uscup Railway denied by manager ..	19
48	Vice-Consul Lamb ..	..	July 28,	Alleged massacre of Christians by Arnauts at Cossova. Has failed to obtain information respecting ..	19
49	Consul-General Blunt	..	Telegraphic Aug. 5,	Vilayet of Cossova. Statements in "Daily News" exaggerated ..	20
50	" " ..	..	July 30,	State of affairs in Dibra. Transmits Report on ..	20
51	Sir W. White ..	..	Telegraphic Aug. 6,	Berats for Bulgarian Bishops. The Exarch has received two ..	21

No.	Name.	No	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
52	Mr. O'Connor ..	..	July 24, 1890	Berats. Article in "Svobodá" welcomes concession ..	21
53	Sir W. White ..	..	30,	Berats. Testimony to Mr. Fane's action in the matter ..	21
54	" " ..	..	Aug. 2,	Berats. Discontent of Greeks ..	22
55	Mr. O'Connor ..	..	2,	Kalobkoff. His extradition demanded by Russia ..	22
56	To M. Yovitchich ..	..	8,	Murder of Servian Vice-Consul at Pristina. Reasons for not supporting Servian Government's demand ..	22
57	Consul-General Blunt ..	..	5,	Exaggerated statements of "Daily News" correspondent. Further respecting ..	23
58	Mr. Gosling ..	..	7,	Grant of Berats. Transmits article from "Journal de Saint-Petersbourg" respecting State of affairs in Dibra. Transmits two Reports by Vice-Consul Shipley on ..	24
59	Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White ..	..	9,	Grant of Berats. Excitement in Greece ..	26
60	Mr. Haggard ..	..	11,	Exaggerated statements in "Daily News." Transmits extracts from Salonica and Cossova "Gazettes" refuting ..	26
61	Consul-General Blunt ..	..	15,	Grant of Berats. M. Stambouloff's thanks for assistance of Her Majesty's Government ..	27
62	Mr. O'Connor ..	..	12,	Berats. Bulgarian Bishop of Oehrida has left Adrianople for his new diocese ..	27
63	Consul Cumberbatch to Sir W. White ..	..	14,	Exaggerated statements of "Daily News" as to Arnaut outrages at Pristina. Further respecting ..	27
64	Consul-General Blunt ..	..	18,	Grant of Berats. Agitation in Greece increasing ..	28
65	Mr. Haggard ..	..	19,	Kalobkoff. Bulgarian Government have consented to extradition of ..	29
66	Mr. O'Connor ..	..	24,	Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Incidents on ..	29
67	Vice-Consul Lamb to Sir W. White ..	..	20,	Exaggerated statements of "Daily News" respecting state of Vilayet of Cossova. Transmits correspondence respecting ..	30
68	Consul-General Blunt ..	..	30,	Arrival of Bulgarian Bishops of Uscup and Oehrida has caused no disturbance at Salonica, as reported in "Neue Freie Presse" ..	32
69	Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White ..	..	30,	General election in Bulgaria. Results of ..	32
70	Mr. O'Connor ..	Telegraphic	Sept. 8,	Ditto, ditto ..	32
71	Vice-Consul Richards to Mr. O'Connor ..	..	8,	Exaggerated statements in "Daily News" respecting state of Cossova. Transmits Report by Mr. Monahan respecting ..	33
72	Consul-General Blunt ..	..	10,	Bulgarian Bishops of Oehrida and of Uscup. Transmits accounts of arrival and reception of Murder of Servian Vice-Consul at Pristina. Murderer sentenced to death, and accomplices to penal servitude ..	35
73	" " ..	..	12,	Privileges claimed by the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs in Turkey. Observations on ..	36
74	" " ..	..	12,	Result of Bulgarian elections. Very little opposition to Ministerial candidates ..	37
75	Sir W. White ..	..	13,	Charges against Hussein Bey of Prevesa. Report on, by Vice-Consul Blakeney ..	38
76	Mr. O'Connor ..	..	15,	Alleged outrages at Sciatista and other places in Southern Macedonia. Report by Vice-Consul Shipley ..	41
77	Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White ..	..	26,	Dispute between Porte and Greek Patriarchate. Transmits copies of correspondence respecting ..	43
78	Consul-General Blunt ..	..	27,	General election in Sarvia. Result of ..	44
79	Sir W. White ..	..	27,	The Greek Patriarchate and the Porte. Greek Government have not interfered in any way ..	44
80	Mr. F. R. St. John ..	..	Oct. 2,	Bulgarian affairs. Summary of letters published by M. Tatisheff in "Novoe Vremya" ..	44
81	Mr. Haggard ..	..	2,	Establishment at Athens of a Society styled "Macedonian Brotherhood on behalf of the Poor" ..	48
82	Sir R. Morier ..	..	4,	Outrages by Hussein Bey of Prevesa. Any action taken respecting ? ..	49
83	Mr. Haggard ..	..	6,	Montenegrin frontier. Measure taken by Montenegro to exclude certain Albanian tribes from their lands in Dulcigno district ..	49
84	To Sir W. White ..	..	14,	The Porte and the Greek Patriarchate Resolutions of Patriarch's Council to close all churches ..	50
85	Sir W. White ..	..	9,		
86	" " ..	..	11,		

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
87	Mr. Baring	..	Oct. 18, 1890	Turco-Montenegrin frontier. Reports prevalence of tranquillity at present ..	51
88	Sir W. White	..	15,	Dispute between Porte and Greek Patriarchate. Forwards translation of official "Teskére" containing decision of Imperial Government on points of dispute ..	52
89	" "	..	20,	The Porte and the Greek Patriarchate. Surprise at orders issued by latter for closing of all churches ..	54
90	" "	..	27,	Ditto. There has been no report of any breach of the peace up to the present ..	55
91	Consul Biliotti	..	Telegraphic Nov. 1,	Greek Orthodox churches closed in Crete in consequence of orders from the Patriarch ..	55
92	To Sir W. White	..	Telegraphic 5,	What is present position of quarrel between Porte and the Greek Patriarch? ..	55
93	Mr. O'Conor	..	Oct. 31,	Sale of Baron Hirsch's Oriental railways. Conversation with M. Stambouloff ..	55
94	Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White	..	Nov. 3,	Closing of Greek churches in Macedonia. Opinion of Archbishop of Salonica respecting, and orders issued by him to his clergy ..	55
95	Sir W. White	..	6,	Present position of quarrel between Porte and Greek Patriarch. Reports on ..	56
96	" "	..	8,	The Porte and the Greek Patriarch. Whole movement appears to be directed from Constantinople. No disturbances have occurred	57
97	Mr. O'Conor	..	9,	Friendly relations established between Holy Synod and Bulgarian Government ..	57
98	Consul-General Blunt	..	9,	Alleged outrages in Sciatista and elsewhere in Southern Macedonia. Conduct of Fethi Effendi. Report by Vice-Consul Shipley ..	59
99	Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White	..	13,	Closing of Greek churches in Sandjak of Serres. Report by Vice-Consul Capety, and Proclamation by Vali of Salonica ..	61
100	Consul Biliotti	..	11,	Closing of Greek churches in Crete. Deputation of Christians to Bishop of Canea and to Vali ..	63
101	To Sir W. White	..	25,	Outrages in Southern Macedonia. To make a strong representation to Porte with regard to conduct of Fethi Effendi, Mudir of Sciatista ..	63
102	Sir E. Monson	..	21,	Policy of new Greek Government. Conversation with M. Deligeorges. His remarks respecting ecclesiastical question in Turkey ..	63
103	Consul-General Blunt	..	17,	Montenegrin immigrants settled in Serbia are gradually returning home ..	63
104	" "	..	20,	Abolition of courts-martial in Vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, Monastir, and Janina ..	63
105	Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White	..	22,	Closing of Greek churches in Prevesa. Attitude of Greeks in Salonica Vilayet ..	65
106	Consul Biliotti	..	25,	Ecclesiastical question in Crete. Meeting of Christians, and arrest of some of them by order of Vali ..	66
107	Sir E. Monson	..	26,	Policy of Greek Government. Conversation with M. Delyanni ..	63
108	Sir W. White	..	28,	The Porte and the Greek Patriarchate. Translation of Vizirial letter treating of the various points in dispute ..	68
109	To Consul Biliotti	..	Dec. 4,	Greek ecclesiastical question. Approves advice given to Vali ..	71
110	Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White	..	1,	Closing of Greek churches. Action of Turkish authorities in suppressing demonstrations at Prevesa and Janina ..	71
111	Consul-General Blunt	..	4,	Death at Salonica of William Standin, seaman of Her Majesty's ship "Collingwood." Courtesy shown by Turkish authorities ..	74
112	To Sir W. White	..	11,	Death of seaman of Her Majesty's ship "Collingwood" at Salonica. To express thanks of Her Majesty's Government for courtesy of Turkish authorities ..	74
113	Sir E. Monson	..	Telegraphic 11,	The Porte and the Greek Patriarchate. The latter has never received any encouragement in the dispute from Greek Government ..	74
114	Consul-General Holmwood to Sir W. White	..	Nov. 13,	Closing of Greek churches at Smyrna. Agitation among Greek community, but no present signs of disturbance ..	75

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
115	Consul-General Holmwood to Sir W. White	..	Nov. 27, 1890	Closing of Greek churches at Smyrna. Demonstration made by Greek population in disapproval of. Memorial to Sultan ..	76
116	Mr. C. Hardinge ..	..	27,	Tariff imposed on Bulgarian produce by Baron Hirsch's railway. Conversation with M. Stambouloff ..	78
117	Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White	..	Dec. 10,	Questions pending between the Forte and the Patriarch. Address of Salonica Greeks to Sultan ..	78
118	Mr. Baring ..	..	6,	Amnesty granted by Emperor of Austria to Djoko Radovich, one of the leaders of Herzegovinian insurrection ..	80
119	To Mr. C. Hardinge..	..	16,	Tariff imposed on Bulgarian produce by Baron Hirsch's railway. Approves language held to M. Stambouloff ..	80
120	Sir E. Monson ..	..	11,	Ecclesiastical question in Turkey, and attitude of Greece. Conversation with M. Deligeorges ..	81
121	Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White	..	17,	Action of Turkish authorities in suppressing demonstrations at Janina and Prevesa in connection with ecclesiastical question ..	81
122	Mr. F. R. St. John ..	..	17,	Greek Church question. Unfavourable view taken by Servian Government of Patriarch's action ..	85
123	Mr. C. Hardinge ..	..	19,	Ditto. Not confined to maintenance of traditional privileges of Greek Patriarch, but connected with rivalry between Greek and Bulgarian Churches in Macedonia ..	86
124	Sir E. Monson ..	Telegraphic	29,	Greek Church question. Greek Government ask if Her Majesty's Government cannot intervene to effect a settlement ..	86
125	Sir W. White ..	Telegraphic	29,	Porte is most desirous of a settlement of Greek Church dispute ..	86
126	Vice-Consul Capety to Consul - General Blunt	.	20,	Appeal of Christian population of Serres to Sultan to bring the Church question to a close ..	87
127	Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt	..	18,	Greek Church dispute. Views of Orthodox community of Cavalla ..	87

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in the East.

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 2 (1891)": C.—6259.]

No. 1.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fane.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 17, 1890.

A QUESTION has been twice asked in the House of Commons regarding the alleged massacre of about eighty Christian refugees by Arnauts in the district of Cossova, and as to the conduct of the Turkish authorities in connection with it.

I inclose a telegram which appeared in the "Manchester Guardian" of the 12th instant, and I have to request you to make inquiries as to whether there is any foundation for the statements which it contains.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 2.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

Salonica, July 2, 1890, 8 p.m.

M. MARINCOVITCH, Servian Consul at Pristina, in the Vilayet of Cossova, was murdered at that place yesterday evening. I have received this information from a reliable quarter.

No. 3.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, June 26, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant,* I have the honour to state that I to-day informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that I had reported to your Lordship his remarks on the subject of the unsatisfactory state of affairs on the frontier. I added that the Porte, by its proposal to erect forts, seemed to be showing a disposal to meet the wishes of the Montenegrins.

M. Vukovich said that he hoped that the scheme would lead to good results, and that all the Montenegrin Government desired was to be on friendly terms with the Porte and with the Albanians. Altogether his language was far more moderate than when he last discussed this subject with me.

In spite, however, of this change of tone, it is easy to see that there is a good deal of friction on the frontier.

The Turkish Minister has just been instructed to call the attention of the Prince's Government to a reported gathering of Montenegrins near Andrijevitza, who were threatening to attack Rugova. The only reply that Tewfik Bey could obtain to his representations was that telegraphic communication with the Vassojevich was interrupted.

Frontier disputes have also arisen near the Boyana, Montenegrins having crossed over to graze their flocks on Turkish territory.

The Montenegrin Government has complained that the Klementi Albanians have made a league with the people of Gusinje, and are threatening to attack the Kutchi, near a place called Veli-polje, about which there is one of those unsettled questions of grazing rights which are such fruitful sources of trouble in these countries. The Turkish Minister made inquiries, and denies that any such league exists; but he tells me that he heard, from a confidential source, that the Montenegrin Government intended sending four battalions of troops to Veli-polje, and one battalion from Velika, whose business it

would be to cut off the retreat of the Gusinjiotes. This news made Tewfik Bey very uneasy, and he spoke to the Prince on the subject, who gave him satisfactory assurances.

All these circumstances go, I think, to prove, what I stated above, that the condition of affairs on the frontier is far from what it ought to be, and that if there is too great supineness on the part of the Turks there is too great activity on the part of the Montenegrins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 4.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)

(Extract.)

Sophia, June 28, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date, I have the honour to report that this morning Major Panitza was conducted from his place of confinement in town to the camp at Bali Effendi, close to Sophia, where the troops are quartered for the summer, and in presence of the whole brigade drawn up in military file he was shot by a peloton of twenty-four soldiers.

Major Panitza fell uttering the cry "Long live Bulgaria."

After the execution, Major Marinoff, the Commandant of the Sophia garrison, addressed a short speech to the troops, in which he said that Major Panitza had met his death in just punishment for treason against his Prince and country, and that a similar fate would be dealt out to whosoever should prove a traitor to the interests of the Fatherland.

The troops maintained a perfectly impassive attitude throughout the proceedings, and the execution of the condemned in the presence of the garrison shows that the Government wished to make an example which should be a warning to the officers to refrain from the political intrigues that had during the last few years become so prevalent, and that were dangerously undermining the discipline and loyalty of the army.

No. 5.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)

(Extract.)

Sophia, June 28, 1890.

THIS morning M. Jivkoff called on me, at the request of M. Stambouloff, to say that the Bulgarian Government trusted that if Her Majesty's Government did not give their support to the entire contents of the note addressed by them on the 16th instant to the Porte,* they would at any rate be willing to use their influence to persuade the Porte to consent to the appointment of Bulgarian Bishops at Uskub and Ochrida. This was the minimum satisfaction which the Bulgarian Government could under the circumstances accept, and he wished to point out that if this concession was not granted the Bulgarian Government would be positively obliged, and was, indeed, absolutely determined, to cease the payment of the Eastern Roumelian tribute next month. It was in order to avoid this contingency that he made bold to think that Her Majesty's Government, together with those of the friendly Powers, would do what lay in their power to prevent them from entering on a course of action which was inevitable.

In reply, I informed M. Jivkoff that I would communicate to your Lordship the request made on behalf of the Bulgarian Government, but I did not conceal from him that the course pursued by M. Stambouloff in the matter of this note was such as could not well be expected to enlist the approval of Her Majesty's Government, and I abstained from any comment which could be interpreted as likely to foreshadow any favourable reply on the part of your Lordship.

* "Turkey No. 2 (1891)," p. 90.

No. 6.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)

(Telegraphic.)

Salonica, July 4, 1890, 8 p.m.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 2nd instant, I am informed that the Servian Consul of Pristina was deliberately killed in a by-street by a gipsy.

The murderer has been arrested, and the affair is being investigated by the Turkish authorities and the Servian Consul-General of Uscup.

My informant states that the crime was perpetrated out of private vengeance.

No. 7.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

(Extract.)

Athens, June 30, 1890.

ON the occasion of Sir E. Monson presenting me on the 28th instant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs as Chargé d'Affaires during his absence, his Excellency produced a copy of the despatch which the Bulgarian Government had addressed to their Agent in Constantinople on the subject of their demands for the recognition of Prince Ferdinand, and for the establishment of Bishops who should have ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the Bulgarians amounting, as that despatch stated, to 2,000,000 inhabitants of Macedonia.

His Excellency said that the Greek Government were entirely indifferent to the former of these demands, but not so with reference to the latter; that if this were granted it would be necessary for Greece "d'avisier" as to what course she would adopt for the preservation of her interests as against those of Bulgaria in Macedonia.

No. 8.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

My Lord,

Athens, June 30, 1890.

IN the conversation with me to-day on the Bulgarian demands M. Tricoupi alluded to the clause in the despatch containing them in which it is stated that the Patriarch of Constantinople having excommunicated the Bulgarian Church, they no longer owned his supremacy. "If," said M. Tricoupi, "the Bulgarians are prepared to carry their argument to its logical conclusion, and declare themselves schismatics from the Orthodox Church in some such public manner that the fact of their schism should be definitely and generally recognized, they may have as many Bishops as they like in Macedonia or elsewhere; what we object to is the existence of an *imperium in imperio*, and the ascendancy that the Slavs in Macedonia will gain over the Greek element by the nomination of Orthodox Bishops of Bulgarian nationality."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 9.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

My Lord,

Athens, June 30, 1890.

IN the Bulgarian note which has formed the subject of my immediately preceding despatches, I notice that the Minister alludes to the different manner in which the Mahommedans still remaining in Bulgaria are treated by this Government and people as compared with the treatment that has been accorded to Mussulmans who remained in other parts of the Turkish dominions which had fallen of late years into other hands.

I have had no means of verifying this statement save as regards Thessaly.

From that province the Turkish population has now, from one cause and another, practically disappeared, with a result even more disastrous than followed the expulsion of the Moors from Spain. Thessaly was twelve years ago the granary of Turkey. The two

great plains of which it is composed were in a high state of cultivation; one Steam Company alone sent over 100 steam-boats a-year from Volo to Constantinople. Now from want of hands to work the land it is fast going out of cultivation. Trade with Turkey has stopped, and no proportionate trade with other parts of Greece has taken its place, while no Greek population flows in to take the place of the emigrant Turk.

The Greek is nowhere a cultivator; he is now, as he has always been, a lawyer, a banker, a trader, a politician, a money-lender; this national characteristic increases with the spread of education, and one of the great problems of the future of this country would seem to be the question of the supply of helots to cultivate the soil.

Your Lordship is aware that an English Company has during the last five years been occupied in draining the Lake Copais. This work will probably be finished during the coming year, but the grave question will then present itself, where are the peasants to come from to cultivate the large area of reclaimed land? Nobody has hitherto suggested that they will be found in Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 10.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

My Lord,

Salonica, July 2, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th ultimo,* I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of the letters which I have received from Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace and Mr. Macgowan on the subject of the alleged massacre of Christians by Arnauts in the Vilayet of Cossova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Sir D. Wallace to Consul-General Blunt.

Dear Mr. Blunt,

Uscup, June 24, 1890.

WITH regard to the statement recently published in the newspapers to the effect that in the Vilayet of Cossova about eighty Christians, of Servian nationality, had been killed by Albanians, I have made inquiries here, and I have come to the conclusion that the story is by no means without some foundation.

It seems that the Christian peasantry in the neighbourhood of Ipek have suffered recently even more than usual from the lawlessness of the Albanians, and that some of them determined to emigrate to Montenegro. About forty of them, it is said, had nearly reached the Montenegrin frontier, when they were attacked, and a conflict ensued, in which there were losses on both sides. The Christians are reported to have lost about one-half of their number.

The object of the Albanians in attacking them was, I presume, to seize their movables which they had with them.

Of course, I cannot guarantee the accuracy of these statements, and I have no means of verifying them, for there are no Europeans in the district in question, and the Turkish authorities are naturally very reticent about the affair. My authority, however, is thoroughly trustworthy, so far as good faith is concerned, and he has exceptional means of obtaining information.

As the conflict took place near the Montenegrin frontier, and is said to have been witnessed by Montenegrin frontier-guards, perhaps the best means of verifying the story would be to apply to our Agent at Cetinje.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONALD MACKENZIE WALLACE.

P.S.—When I say “Christians of Servian nationality,” I use the word “nationality” in the ethnographical sense. The peasants in question were Ottoman subjects.

D. M. W.

* “Turkey No. 2 (1891),” p. 93.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Mr. Macgowan to Consul-General Blunt.

Dear Sir,

Philippopoli, June 24, 1890.

I HAVE been so busily occupied that I have not been able until now to write to you.

I made the inquiries that you desired at Uscup, but I found that no very definite information was obtainable.

The Consul says that there have been some disturbances in the locality referred to, but he thinks that the newspaper report contains much exaggeration. He says that he has heard that a party of emigrants on their way to Servia were attacked, and some were killed, but he regards the newspaper account as very highly coloured. He had not heard that any soldiers had been sent into the district, but I was told by a Greek doctor that I met at Uscup that he understood that some troops had been sent there. This doctor says that it is practically impossible to obtain definite and correct information as to these disturbances, but that he does not doubt that some outrages have been committed.

I am sorry that I was not able to ascertain anything more, but outside of the circle of Turkish officials people in Uscup know but little of the subject.

I saw the Vali, and was pleasantly received.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) P. S. MACGOWAN.

No. 11.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 7.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 2, 1890.

ON receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 17th ultimo, I caused inquiries to be made at the Porte as to whether there was any ground for the allegation, concerning which questions had been asked in the House of Commons, that a large number of Christians had been massacred by Arnauts in the Vilayet of Kossova.

Both the Grand Vizier and the Minister of War replied that they were at a loss to understand what could have given rise to such a statement, but that they would respectively address inquiries upon the subject to the Civil Governor and the Military Commander of the province.

I have daily been expecting to receive the result of those inquiries, and have therefore delayed replying to your Lordship's despatch, but up till now no answer has reached the Porte from the provincial authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND FANE.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fane.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 7, 1890, 4.25 p.m.

HER Majesty's Government do not support Bulgarian note to Porte on account of the demand contained in it for the recognition of Prince Ferdinand, which they consider unwise.

But, without mentioning the note, you should generally advise the Porte to treat Bulgaria as favourably as it properly can in ecclesiastical questions in Macedonia.

Communicate with your Austrian colleague on the subject.

No. 13.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. O'Conor.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 8, 1890.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch of the 28th ultimo, reporting your communications with M. Jivkoff when the latter, on behalf of the

Bulgarian Government, requested the assistance of Her Majesty's Government with a view to induce the Porte to grant some of the demands recently put forward by the Principality.

Your language upon the occasion in question is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 14.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 10.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, July 2, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th ultimo respecting affairs on the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, I have the honour to report that serious complaints are now being made against the Montenegrins by the Turkish authorities.

It is reported that on the 29th ultimo a band of Montenegrins attacked a village belonging to Rugova. A fusillade was kept up for several hours, with the result that there were a few killed and wounded on each side.

The Montenegrins are also said to have attacked the villages of Rjanica and Pepice, the former of which is situated on the right, the latter on the left, bank of the Lim, not very far from the Lake of Plava, but what was the result of the combats I do not know.

No less than seven Mussulmans of Gusinje are reported to have been murdered quite recently, close to the frontier, by Montenegrins—five on one occasion and two on another.

Two Mussulman merchants of Sjenitza, going to Gusinje on business, are also reported to have been murdered.

The consequence of these acts on the part of the Montenegrins is that great excitement prevails among the inhabitants of Gusinje, who declare they will resort to reprisals.

In my despatch of the 4th ultimo, I reported that the Turkish Minister had told me that the Prince had promised to grant the extradition of the Rayahs who had murdered a Mussulman of Rugova. When I last saw Tewfik Bey, a few days ago, he informed me that the men had not as yet been given up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 15.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

My Lord,

Vienna, July 9, 1890.

WITH reference to Mr. Fane's telegram of the 7th instant, I informed Count Kálnoky that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to advise the Porte to be as favourable to Bulgaria in Macedonian ecclesiastical questions as it properly can, and that he was to communicate with Baron Calice, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. de Szögyényi assured me to-day, in reply to my inquiry, that similar instructions had been sent to the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 16.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

My Lord,

Sophia, July 7, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th February, 1889,* reporting the arrest of certain persons for signing an Address to the Bulgarian Exarch which contained reflections on the Prince and Government, I have now the honour to inclose an

* "Turkey No. 3 (1889)," p. 287.

extract from "La Bulgarie," from which your Lordship will perceive that all the accused have now been acquitted with the exception of M. P. Stanchoff, who was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, to date from his arrest eleven months ago.

It is believed that M. Stanchoff will appeal against this sentence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Extract from "La Bulgarie" of July 6, 1890.

HIER, Vendredi, est venue à l'audience du Tribunal Départemental de Sophia l'affaire dite de l'Adresse à l'Exarque, à propos de l'expulsion des Évêques récalcitrants. Tous les accusés ont été acquittés, à l'exception de M. P. Stantchef, qui a été condamné à douze mois d'emprisonnement, sauf à déduire les onze mois d'arrêt préventif, ce qui réduit la peine à subir à un mois. On nous assure néanmoins, que M. Stantchef fera appel de cette sentence.

No. 17.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 11, 1890.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Baron Blanc, the Italian Ambassador, was in receipt last night of instructions from his Government to join his Austrian colleague and myself in a recommendation to the Sublime Porte to make all reasonable concessions on the question of the Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia.

I am informed that his Excellency will act upon these instructions to-morrow.

Both Baron Calice and I have already acted on our instructions to counsel the Porte to view the Bulgarian wishes on this question in as favourable a light as possible.

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. O'Conor.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 11, 1890, 4 P.M.

WE cannot support the application of the Bulgarian Government for the recognition of Prince Ferdinand. We think it unwise to put forward such a demand at the present time.

We are, however, doing what we can to prevail upon the Porte to redress ecclesiastical grievances of Sultan's Bulgarian subjects in Macedonia.

Inform Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 19.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fane.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 11, 1890, 4 P.M.

ECCLESIASTICAL question in Macedonia.

Act in concert with your Austro-Hungarian and Italian colleagues in recommending Porte to consider favourably any proposal for redressing the ecclesiastical grievances of Bulgarian subjects of the Sultan in Macedonia.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)*

My Lord,

Therapia, July 8, 1890.

I HAVE but just time to do myself the honour of forwarding to your Lordship by this afternoon's post the inclosed copy of a fresh communication from the Bulgarian Government to the Sublime Porte, signed by M. Stambouloff. This communication softens down the first note by declaring that the sense attributed to the latter, namely, that it aimed at forcing the hand of the Sublime Porte by intimidating the Imperial Government, is absolutely contrary to the truth, the real object of that note having been merely to explain to the Suzerain Government the situation of Bulgaria, and to solicit the aid and protection of the Imperial Government.

This new note is dated the 22nd June, o.s. (4th July, n.s.); it was sent by telegraph, and was immediately (on Saturday, I think) presented to the Grand Vizier by Dr. Voulcovitch.

I am sending a copy of this despatch to Mr. O'Conor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND FANE.

Inclosure in No. 20.

M. Stambouloff to Dr. Voulcovitch.

Sophia, le 22 Juin, 1890 (v.s.).

JE vous autorise de déclarer en mon nom à son Altesse le Grand Vizir et à la Sublime Porte que le sens et la portée attribués à la lettre du Gouvernement en date du 4 (16) Juin courant, à savoir, qu'elle vise de forcer la main à la Sublime Porte en intimidant le Gouvernement Impérial, sont absolument contraires à la vérité. Le but réel de la lettre en question est celui d'exposer au Gouvernement Suzerain la situation de la Bulgarie et de solliciter l'aide et la protection du Gouvernement Impérial de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

(Signé) STAMBOULOFF.

(Translation.)

Sophia, June 22, 1890 (o.s.)

I AUTHORIZE you to declare in my name to his Highness the Grand Vizier and to the Sublime Porte that the meaning and the scope attributed to the letter from the Government of the 4th (16th) instant, viz., that it aims at forcing the hand of the Sublime Porte by intimidating the Imperial Government, are absolutely devoid of truth. The real object of the letter in question is to lay before the Suzerain Government the situation of Bulgaria, and to solicit the aid and protection of the Imperial Government of His Majesty the Sultan.

(Signed) STAMBOULOFF.

No. 21.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 13, 1890.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, Baron Blanc, the Italian Ambassador, informed the Sublime Porte yesterday that, in accordance with instructions received from his Government, his Excellency joined with his Austrian and British colleagues in consulting the Imperial Government to look upon the Bulgarian wishes in the question of the Bishops in Macedonia favourably.

* Substance received by telegraph.

No. 22.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 13, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 11th instant, I have the honour to state to your Lordship that M. de Radowitz informed me yesterday that he had told the Grand Vizier and Saïd Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the German Government, although desirous of continuing in their attitude of reserve in matters connected with Bulgaria, feel themselves compelled in the general interests of peace to express their approval of the counsel given to the Sublime Porte by the Cabinets of Great Britain, Italy, and Austria, viz., that concessions ought to be made with respect to the position of the Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia.

No. 23.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, July 6, 1890.

IN previous despatches I have had the honour to report to your Lordship on the subject of the rumoured distribution of arms to Rayahs who had come to Cettinje. The Turkish Minister having lately received instructions to make official representations on the subject to the Montenegrin Government, called on M. Vukovich and asked for explanations. That gentleman positively denied that the Government had distributed a single rifle, but said that possibly some Montenegrins who had old arms in their possession may have sold them to the refugees, though where the latter, who are supposed to have crossed the border in great destitution, got the money to pay for their purchases, he did not explain.

The Turkish allegation is that, altogether, 300 rifles have been distributed. Of course it is impossible to fix the exact number, but I have very little doubt that arms have been distributed.

In my despatch of the 2nd instant I mentioned the complaints made by the Turkish authorities against the Montenegrins.

Tewfik Bey called on me yesterday and spoke to me at great length on these subjects, and, if all his information is correct, the frontier populations may be said to have been at open war with each other for the last month.

He had first complained of a gathering of armed Montenegrins near Andrijevitza. The Prince and M. Vukovich gave some explanations and assurances, but said that reliable information could not be got at once as the telegraph to Andrijevitza was interrupted (see my despatch of the 26th ultimo). After several days' delay, M. Vukovich gave further explanations which were rather of a contradictory nature. He first said that the Rugova people had been firing a "feu de joie," and that the Montenegrins had assembled thinking they were going to be attacked, but that there had been no fighting; and, again, on a subsequent occasion, he said that there had been a skirmish, and that lives had been lost.

After this came the attacks on Rugova and on the villages in the valley of the Lim.

Tewfik Bey said that no less than seventeen Mussulmans had been murdered by Montenegrins during the last four weeks, the cases of the two merchants of Sjenitza being peculiarly atrocious. These men, who were totally unconnected with the country, presented themselves at the Montenegrin frontier near the Lim and asked if they could pass in safety. They were assured no harm would befall them, but when they had ridden inland for an hour or so they were attacked and murdered.

Tewfik Bey has naturally made strong representations respecting these outrages, and has received the most friendly assurances. He was told that the murderers of the two merchants had been arrested, and that the Captain of Andrijevitza, who was a good deal to blame for all these disturbances, had been put under arrest, and would be brought to Cettinje.

Tewfik Bey went on to say that there was much excitement among the Albanians, but that they were kept in check by the strong force posted along the frontier at Gusinje, Ipek, and other places, and he thought that the Albanians were thus being restrained, which had emboldened the Montenegrins to make these attacks.

With regard to the dispute between the Kutchi and the Klementi respecting

Velipolje, to which I have referred in my despatch of the 26th ultimo, Tewfik Bey told me that the Prince had now consented to have the Montenegrin claim adjudicated on by the Scutari Tribunals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

P.S.—I omitted to state that another "Captain" has actually been appointed for the district of Andrijevitza, and has already left for his post.

W. B.

No. 24.

M. Yovitchich to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 15.)

M. YOVITCHICH presents his compliments to his Excellency the Marquis of Salisbury, and begs to call the attention of his Excellency, according to the instructions received from the Servian Government, to the assassination of the Servian Vice-Consul in Prishtina, M. Luka Marinkovich, which took place in that town, as his Excellency is already aware, on the 19th ultimo (o. s.), about 8.30 p.m., when there were still people in the streets, and many shops open, and hardly about 150 yards from the Governor's residence.

The news of the murder only reached Belgrade next morning about 3 o'clock, although the widow of M. Marinkovich sent the telegram about 10 the night before. According to the information received from her and the Servian Consul in Uskub-Skoplje, M. Karich, who has been ordered to proceed at once to Prishtina to assume the duties of the Servian Consulate there and make the strictest inquiries as to the circumstances under which M. Marinkovich was shot, the probability is that the murder has been committed by an organized conspiracy of some fanatical Turks and Albanians of Prishtina. As yet it has not been ascertained in how far the local authorities may be implicated in the affair, but it is certain that they were not ignorant of the fanatical hate some inhabitants entertained against the Servian Vice-Consul, as the Mutasherif of Prishtina, through the Turkish Minister at Belgrade, has asked General Grouich, not long ago, to transfer M. Marinkovich to another post, as it was thought that he had legalized some papers which were not authentic. Although such reasons would not be sufficient for the removal of an official, even if proved true, still, for the sake of the maintenance of friendly relations with Turkey, and in the interest of avoiding any possible disagreement or friction between the Servian Agents and the Turkish authorities, General Grouich promised to move M. Marinkovich from Prishtina as soon as he could find a suitable person to replace him; at the same time, the impression this little incident left was that the Mutasherif's dissatisfaction was directed more against the institution of the Servian Consulate in Prishtina, than the person of M. Marinkovich.

The local authorities seem to have been wanting in patience. From the information received it transpires that about 10 to 15 days before the murder, a gipsy began coming frequently in front of the Servian Consulate, and, under the pretence of being drunk, made great disturbance and all sorts of annoyance. Such repeated boldness from a gipsy could hardly be understood unless he was instigated by others. On the very evening of the assassination the gipsy came twice, and caused such disorder before the Consulate that M. Marinkovich, when the gipsy came for the second time, found himself forced to order his "gavas" to take the man to the police, and afterwards himself left the Consulate to go to the Governor's house to complain of the offence, when the murderer's hand stayed him on the way. It can hardly be doubted that the gipsy in question played the rôle of a *provocateur* in order to bring M. Marinkovich out on the street, where his murderer awaited him.

The incident which preceded this horrible crime, and the circumstances under which it was committed, are of such a nature that it must be regarded as the consequence of incited fanaticism, in the face of which the Turkish authorities, either being powerless, or from any other reason, seem standing with folded arms. The Vilayet of Kossovo is the scene of constant violence and crime. Not a day almost passes but that the news does not reach the Servian Government of some murder, robbery, and of violent breaking-up of homes of the whole of the Christian communities. The Servian Government was obliged twice already to make friendly representations to the Sublime Porte asking that serious measures might be taken at

last to prevent illegalities, which forced hundreds of poor Christian families, almost naked and barefooted, to the Servian territory, thereby exciting the people on the frontier, and giving cause for all sorts of disturbances. It is not impossible that the assassination of the Servian Vice-Consul in Prishtina was aimed principally to get rid of a witness of Albanian cruelties and of the powerlessness of the local authorities, whose duty it is to defend the oppressed from their oppressors.

All such causes not only give the right to the Servian Government, but impose on them the duty to demand a full satisfaction from the Sublime Porte. The Servian Minister in Constantinople has received instructions in that sense, and to ask the moral satisfaction due to the insulted Servian flag as well as an indemnity to the family of the late Consul. As moral satisfaction, the Servian Minister is to ask that the soldiers of the garrison of Prishtina make a *défilé* in front of the Servian flag hoisted on the Vice-Consulate. In doing that, the Servian Government is deeply convinced that it not only asserts the interests of their own dignity, but the consolidated interests of the entire international community, which cannot look on with indifference when the most sacred duties in the intercourse of the foreign States are brutally tampered with, and Agents are assassinated whose calling is to cultivate and foster the friendly relations of the various nations and States.

M. Yovitchich has, therefore, the honour, in accordance with his instructions, to request his Excellency the Marquis of Salisbury to use his influence and friendly advice at the proper quarter that Servia may receive the due satisfaction, and so hasten the judicious settlement of all questions raised in consequence of the unfortunate event in Prishtina.

The investigation, which is conducted by the Public Prosecutor of Uskub, in conjunction with the authorities of Prishtina, and in the presence of the Servian Consul, the said M. Karich, has not had much result as yet. Several persons have been arrested, but there is no positive evidence of their connection with the crime. Among them is also the gipsy aforementioned. It is characteristic that the local authorities of Prishtina in the beginning attempted to ascribe the murder to him, wishing to represent the assassination as a crime out of personal vengeance. The absurdity of such a supposition is evident when it is kept in mind that the gipsy in question had been taken to the police by the "gavas" of the Consulate some time before the murder, and that such an explanation is utterly impossible. It has been intended by this, it is thought, to give the murder quite a different character, and make a trivial matter of it.

*The Royal Servian Legation, London,
July 3 (15), 1890.*

No. 25.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 16.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 12, 1890.

WITH reference to Mr. Baring's despatch to your Lordship of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to state that from the information I have been able to obtain it appears that a border warfare of an unusually serious description has been going on between the Montenegrins and the Albanians.

The Montenegrins appear to have made a regular invasion of the Sandjak of Ipek, and to have severely harried the country. Gusinje especially suffered, and so much loss of life as well as of property occurred on the side of the Albanians, that it is to be feared lest they may refuse to be quieted until they have taken ample revenge on the Montenegrins.

However, the Turkish troops in the locality have now been reinforced, and, moreover, I learn that great satisfaction has been given to the Porte by the assurances which it has received from the Montenegrin Government, that they had nothing whatever to do with the incursion which took place in Turkish territory, and that they would do everything on their side to prevent a renewal of the conflicts between their people and the Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND FANE.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, July 9, 1890.

I INFORMED M. Vukovich to-day that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to draw the attention of the Porte to the state of affairs on the Turco-Montenegrin frontier,* and I availed myself of the opportunity to tell his Excellency that, judging from what I had recently heard, the situation had undergone a change, and that Turkey was now complaining of Montenegrin aggression.

His Excellency declared that the reports were exaggerated, but he admitted enough to make it quite clear to me that there was a considerable amount of agitation going on in the Vassojevich district.

With regard to the first encounter between Rugoviotes and Montenegrins, mentioned in my despatch of the 6th instant, he said that the former had provoked it by their menacing attitude. He denied that the villages of Pepice and Rjanica had been attacked, but admitted that the Montenegrins had threatened to attack them.

The murder of the two Mussulmans of Sjenitza was, he said, unfortunately true, and he deeply regretted the deed, which he qualified as most abominable. The murderers had been brought to Cettinje, and he himself would do all he could to have them most severely punished.

He said that it was true that some Gusinjiotes had been killed by Montenegrins, but these were acts of vengeance. The people of Gusinje had murdered and robbed Montenegrins, and the Montenegrins replied by murdering and robbing the Gusinjiotes. This very likely may be true, as the people of Gusinje are notorious for their ferocity and fanaticism.

M. Vukovich went on to say that strong measures had been taken, and that he hoped that order would now be completely re-established in the border districts. He added that orders had been given to the inhabitants of the Vassojevich not to offer resistance even if their villages were attacked by Albanians, but simply to withdraw.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 27.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 17.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 17, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Grand Vizier received to-day an Iradé from the Sultan, authorizing the issue of Berats to the Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia. At the same time, however, his Highness received the Sultan's command that before giving effect to the said Iradé he should satisfy His Majesty that no further demands would be made by the Bulgarian Government, especially demands of such a nature as would, if acceded to by the Porte, involve a departure on the part of the Ottoman Government from the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have communicated by telegraph to Her Majesty's Representatives at Sophia and Vienna the above information.

No. 28.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 19, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 17th instant touching the assurance to be given to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan by the Grand Vizier, to the effect that, if the Berats should be granted to the Bulgarian Bishops, no further embarrassing demands would be made by the Bulgarian Government, especially such as would be contrary to Treaty stipulations.

His Excellency Baron Calice and I both received yesterday a visit from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and we imparted to him, for his own and Kiamil Pasha's information, our personal conviction that "our two Governments will not desist from

* "Turkey No. 2 (1891)," p. 95.

urging upon the Bulgarian Government the necessity of prudence, moderation, and respect for Treaty engagements."

No. 29.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fane.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 20, 1890, 7 P.M.

YOUR telegram of yesterday: Grant of Berats to Bulgarian Bishops.
You may repeat, in my name, assurance you have given to Grand Vizier.

No. 30.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(Extract.)

Vienna, July 19, 1890.

IN my interview with Count Kálnoky yesterday afternoon I referred, very naturally, to the satisfactory intelligence (reported in Mr. Fane's telegram of the 17th instant) of the Sultan having sanctioned the grant of Berats for the appointment of Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia, intelligence which had, Count Kálnoky informed me, been likewise reported by Baron Calice, who, however, his Excellency said, had not mentioned the Iradé being accompanied by the condition specified by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

Count Kálnoky expressed the hope that by this concession the recent acute phase of the Bulgarian question might be considered to have passed over, and that, at all events for the immediate future, the relations between Bulgaria and the Porte might continue uninterruptedly on their hitherto peaceful and friendly footing.

No. 31.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 21, 1890.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Baron de Calice has received from Count Kálnoky a similar authorization to that conveyed to me by your Lordship.

No. 32.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Yovitchich.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Foreign Office, July 22, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, relative to the recent murder of the Servian Vice-Consul at Prishtina, in which you express the hope of your Government that Her Majesty's Government will use their influence to obtain for Servia proper satisfaction for this painful incident. In reply I have to state that, pending the result of the inquiry which is still proceeding, any intervention on the part of Her Majesty's Government appears to be out of place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 33.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(Extract.)

Cettinje, July 17, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant and to previous despatches, I have the honour to report that a somewhat better state of things now appears

to prevail on the frontier. At any rate, no fresh outrages have taken place. This sudden amelioration proves, I think, with what perfect ease the Montenegrin Government can, if they only choose, restrain their subjects from acts of violence.

I hear Tahir Pasha has been sent to the frontier to select sites for the erection of the block-houses.

I see in the "Times" a Vienna telegram of the 6th instant, in which it is reported that Montenegrin bands were in Ipek. This is of course absurd. Ipek is strongly garrisoned, and is inhabited almost exclusively by Mussulmans, and no Montenegrin bands would be strong enough to attack it.

The places attacked by the Montenegrins were two villages in the Lim valley, and a Rugova village called "Hatchai," which is not marked on any Map in my possession.

No. 34.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 24.)

(Extract.)

Cettinje, July 17, 1890.

IN his despatch of the 20th August* last Mr. Lamb reported to your Lordship that a Mixed Commission, which had been engaged at Berana for some months in an endeavour to settle the question as to the revenues of lands still owned by Turkish subjects in districts now belonging to Montenegro, had interrupted its sittings. Mr. Lamb further explained the situation of the Mussulman land-owners.

This question has now been revived, and the Turkish Minister has been instructed to call upon the Montenegrin Government to settle these long-outstanding claims, and at the same time to avail themselves of Tahir Pasha's presence on the frontier to settle another dispute respecting rights of pasturage which has been going on for a long time between the Montenegrins of Sekular and the Albanians of Rugova.

No. 35.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

Sophia, July 12, 1890.

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, I informed M. Jivkoff, who is Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, that your Lordship was giving what support you could with a view to persuade the Sublime Porte to accede to the demands preferred by the Bulgarian Government in regard to the question of ecclesiastical privileges in Macedonia.

M. Jivkoff expressed the sincere thanks of the Bulgarian Government for your Lordship's assistance in this matter, the settlement of which he regarded as of vital importance for the continuance of good and friendly relations between the Porte and the Bulgarian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 36.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

Salonica, July 17, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Governor-General of Salonica has received a telegram, dated the 15th instant, from the Ottoman Consul at Larissa, advising him of his having heard from a reliable quarter that a band composed of thirty individuals had been formed in Thessaly, and was preparing to penetrate into Turkish territory for the purpose of carrying on brigandage in Macedonia.

I have telegraphed the substance of this report to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

* "Turkey No. 3 (1889)," p. 460.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, July 14, 1890.

ON the 8th instant I had the honour of receiving your Lordship's telegram of the 17th instant, instructing me that I should, in a general way, advise the Porte to be as favourable as it properly can to Bulgaria on the Macedonian Ecclesiastical question; that I was to communicate with my Austrian colleague on this subject; and that, in my communication to the Porte, I was to abstain from all reference to the Bulgarian note of the 16th ultimo.

In consequence of the above referred to instruction, I called the same day on the Austrian Ambassador and acquainted him with the orders which I had received from your Lordship.

M. de Calice said that although he had not as yet received any direct instruction authorizing him to do so, he should, nevertheless, support, as far as he could, the advice which, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, I was about to offer to the Porte.

The following day (Wednesday, the 9th instant) I went to the Porte and asked to see the Foreign Minister, as well as the Grand Vizier. They were both sitting in the Council of Ministers, which is held every Wednesday, but Saïd Pasha came out to see me, and was directly afterwards joined by Kiamil Pasha.

I then delivered my instruction textually as I had received it.

Saïd Pasha said he would take it down in writing, and in doing this his Excellency remarked on the words "de se montrer aussi favorable que faire se peut 'à la Bulgarie' dans la question ecclésiastique," &c., and suggested that I should allow him to substitute for my original words the following ones:—

"J'ai reçu, pour instruction de mon Gouvernement de conseiller à la Sublime Porte de se montrer aussi favorable que faire se peut dans la question épiscopale Bulgare."

He said that this formula would be a much more agreeable one to the Imperial Government, and one more likely to conduce to the attainment of the object of my instruction. The Bulgarians in Macedonia were Ottoman subjects, and not subjects of the Government at Sophia.

So long as the Bishops got their Berats, I considered that the form by which that object was attained mattered little. I said to the two Ministers that the object of Her Majesty's Government in ordering me to convey to them the advice which I had given was, in the foremost place, to preserve the peace of Europe, which might be endangered if the Bulgarian Government were driven to rash extremities by the refusal of the Porte to listen to any of their demands, and, in the second place, to be serviceable to the Ottoman Government. Since those objects were, in the opinion of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, likely to be furthered by the proposed alteration of my literal instructions, I consented, on my own responsibility, to the modification which he desired.

On calling next morning (the 10th instant) on the Austrian Ambassador, I found that he had just received official instructions to support me in advising the Porte to make every possible concession on the Episcopal question. His Excellency carried out his instructions the same afternoon.

The next morning, Friday (the 11th instant), the Italian Ambassador informed me and my Austrian colleague that he had the night before received an instruction from M. Crispi to join the British and Austrian Representatives in recommending the Porte to show itself favourable to the wishes of the Bulgarian Government respecting the question of the Bulgarian Bishopsrics in Macedonia. This instruction Baron Blanc carried out the following day (Saturday, the 12th instant).

That same evening I received a letter from the German Ambassador telling me that he had informed the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs that his Government, while desirous of maintaining their reserve on the Bulgarian question, could not but express their approval, in the general interests of European peace, of the advice which the Representatives of England, Austria, and Italy had given to the Sublime Porte.

I shall have the honour in subsequent despatches of reporting to your Lordship the further progress of this business.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 18, 1890.

IN obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 27th ultimo,* I to-day represented to the Grand Vizier, as well as to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the importance of maintaining a strict supervision over the population of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier.

They both assured me that order had now been restored on that frontier. Saïd Pasha added that the fighting which had taken place had been occasioned by disputes as to certain rights of pasturage, and that an Ottoman Commissioner had been appointed to meet a Montenegrin Commissioner, in order to arrange on the spot this matter of contention between the rival populations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND FANE.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(Extract.)

Vienna, July 23, 1890.

WITH reference to the statements which have been made in the newspapers as to Duke Ernest of Saxe-Coburg's visit to Vienna, and his conferences with Count Kálnoky respecting the abdication of Prince Ferdinand, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Duke Ernest of Saxe-Coburg has not been in Vienna at all, and that no communications whatever have passed between his Highness and Count Kálnoky in regard to the above-named subject.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 28.)

(Extract.)

Cettinje, July 21, 1890.

I HAD occasion to see the Prince yesterday, when His Highness requested me to convey to your Lordship the most positive assurance that he was most peacefully disposed towards his neighbours, and that, on no account, would he do anything to cause disturbance in Europe.

With regard to the frontier provinces, His Highness said that everything was quiet there now; that the newly appointed "Captain" of Andrijevitza had had a satisfactory interview with the Turkish Military Commanders, and that all the troubles had arisen from mutual distrust. The Montenegrins thought they were going to be attacked by the Albanians, and the latter feared the Montenegrins were going to attack them.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, July 24, 1890.

REFERRING to the murder of the Servian Vice-Consul at Pristina, my Turkish colleague told me yesterday that the Servian Minister at Constantinople had, by order of his Government, demanded reparation for the insult to the Servian Consular escutcheon alleged to have been offered by what befell the Vice-Consul, and also the payment of an indemnity to the bereaved widow, but that the Porte has refused both demands on the ground, in the first place, that the murder was committed at a distance from the Consulate, and, in the second, that a Government cannot be held responsible for every act of private vengeance committed within its territory beyond making all reasonable effort to discover the author, and inflicting on him adequate punishment when captured.

* "Turkey No. 2 (1891)," p. 95.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 26, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that Dr. Voulcovitch, the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople, called upon me to-day and said that he had been ordered to express to me, in M. Stambouloff's name, the gratitude which the Bulgarian Government felt towards Her Majesty's Government for the support which your Lordship had directed Her Majesty's Embassy to give to the wishes of the Bulgarian people in the question of the Bishops in Macedonia.

I told the Bulgarian Agent that I should have pleasure in transmitting his communication to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND FANE.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 30.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 30, 1890.

THE Sublime Porte received, on the afternoon of Saturday last, the 26th instant, the authorization of the Sultan to issue to two Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia their Berats of investiture.

Two reservations were inserted in the Imperial Iradé by the Sultan: the first, to the effect that His Imperial Majesty would hold his Ministers responsible should any complications arise from this measure; the second, that endeavours should be made to persuade the Exarch to cause his Bishops to adopt some distinguishing badge.

Some delay in the issue of these Berats has occurred owing to the Bairam festivals, but I receive assurances on all sides that the Sublime Porte will deliver them in the course of the next few days to the Bulgarian Exarch.

Vice-Consul Lamb to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 31.)

My Lord,

Scutari, July 24, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Sir Philip Currie's despatch of the 10th instant,* transmitting copy of a despatch and inclosures from Mr. Consul-General Blunt, relative to certain alleged massacres of Serb Rayahs in the Vilayet of Kossovo, and desiring information.

As I only returned to my post yesterday from six months' leave of absence, it is impossible for me to report at any length by to-day's mail. So far, however, as I have at present been able to ascertain, nothing deserving the name of a "massacre" has been heard of here, and though, seeing the desultory nature of the communications between Scutari and the interior, this absence of knowledge by no means amounts to absolute disproof, yet I am inclined to believe that nothing of the sort has taken place.

On the other hand, it is beyond doubt that the Kossovo Vilayet has been, this summer, in something more than its normal condition of disturbance, the agitation having become more acute, and more widely diffused than I found it in the autumn of last year.

Armed gatherings and conflicts between Christians and Mussulmans have occurred in several places, in one of which five or six lives are said to have been lost on either side, while about a fortnight ago the gravest anxiety existed at the Konak here regarding the state of affairs in the district of Gussinje, that part of the Province of Kossovo immediately abutting on the Scutari Vilayet, where between 4,000 and 5,000 Arnauts belonging to some of the most unmanageable clans had assembled for the purpose of striking in a long-standing feud between the people of Rugova and their Montenegrin neighbours.

The Governor, however, this morning, assured me that in consequence of measures

* Transmitting copy of No. 10, and asking for information on the subject.

taken by the military authorities at Ipek and elsewhere, and the arrangements concluded with the Montenegrin Government for the mutual surveillance of the frontier, the danger of further serious conflicts might now be considered as obviated.

Should I be able to procure any further or more precise information in the course of the next few days, I will not fail to communicate it to your Lordship by the ensuing mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 45.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 1.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, July 27, 1890.

I TOLD General Gruitch yesterday that I had received private information from Sophia of renewed rumours there of Servian military preparations against Bulgaria, that they had been propagated from hence by Bulgarian refugees, and that I had written to my informant denying their truth.

His Excellency expressed his approval of my having done so, as well as his satisfaction at the circumstance that such rumours were circulated this time by Bulgarians and not by Servians. He then proceeded to explain that the appointment of M. Steyitch as titular Servian Agent at Sophia, the contemplated speedy resumption of Commercial Treaty negotiations with Bulgaria, and the prospect of a settlement of the Servo-Bulgarian Frontier question, which has been the cause of such constant friction in the past, were all calculated to bring about a better feeling between the two countries.

To this I observed that the selection for the post of Servian Agent at Sophia of M. Steyitch was, in itself, sufficient proof of his Excellency's conciliatory disposition, for I had heard him spoken of, by one of my foreign colleagues who has known him intimately for many years, as the very best choice that could have been made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 46.

M. Yovitchich to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 2.)

M. le Ministre,

London, July 20 (August 1), 1890.

SINCE I had the honour, in the name of my Government, to explain to your Excellency the circumstances under which our Vice-Consul in Prishtina has been assassinated, and have requested your Excellency to use friendly influence with the Sublime Porte on behalf of Servia that due satisfaction be granted to her, the Servian Government has been informed by our Minister at Constantinople that the Sublime Porte is not inclined to give Servia other satisfaction than simply to punish the malefactors.

Seeing that fresh evidence has reached the Servian Government, from which it could be concluded, almost with certainty, that the local authorities of Prishtina instigated the fanatical Arnauts against M. Marinkovich, such an unexpected and unfriendly reply has produced a most painful impression in Belgrade, and the Servian Government has been compelled to give new instructions to our Representative at Constantinople, asking him to repeat Servia's demands to the Sublime Porte more categorically; but, in order to prove Servia's conciliatory spirit, and in the interest of the continuance of friendly relations with the Ottoman Empire, M. Novakovich has been advised to say that the Servian Government will be now willing to consider the honours shown to the dead body of M. Marinkovich, while it was conducted to the frontier to be transported to Servia, as moral satisfaction, and to ask that only a material compensation may be granted by the Porte to the family of the late Vice-Consul, which is, through his premature and cruel death, deprived of almost every means of existence.

The Servian Government trusts that by this concession it will be seen that they have done all in their power to meet the Turkish Government half-way, and how much they have at heart to avoid everything that may strain the relations between the two States.

The investigation being now terminated and the Servian Government having altered

their former demands as to satisfaction, I venture to ask your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government may use their influence in support of Serbia's present demand.

Thanking for your Excellency's note of the 22nd instant, which I have duly communicated to General Grouich, I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. Z. YOVITCHICH.

No. 47.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 4.)

(Telegraphic.)

Salonica, August 4, 1890, 11 P.M.

THE statement published in the "Daily News" of the 29th July last, that a stoker was killed and three Mahomedan passengers were wounded by Arnauts on the line, is emphatically contradicted by the Manager of the Salonica-Uscup Railway. This gentleman states that a reputed relative of two Arnaut women, who had been run down and killed by an engine more than three months ago, fired on a train about a week after the accident, but fortunately injured no one. He also states that no such outrage has since been perpetrated on the line.

No. 48.

Vice-Consul Lamb to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

My Lord,

Scutari, July 28, 1890.

IN reference to my preceding despatch of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that, having made full inquiry in every quarter that is open to me, I have failed to obtain any information concerning the alleged massacre of Serb Rayahs in the Vilayet of Kossovo.

From the letters on this subject forwarded to your Lordship by Mr. Consul-General Blunt, it would appear that some difference of opinion existed at points much more closely connected than Scutari with the neighbourhood of the supposed occurrence as to the locality in which it had taken place, Mr. MacGowan gathering that the victims of the massacre were on their way into Serbia, while Sir D. M. Wallace was informed that it had been perpetrated within sight of a Montenegrin frontier-guard. If the former were correct, it would indeed be perfectly possible that the event should have occurred without any intelligence of it reaching this place, but in the latter case, something would almost surely have transpired here by now. Moreover, if a party of emigrants proceeding from Ipek into Montenegro were attacked by Arnauts for the sake of their portable property, it is in the highest degree unlikely that the assault should have been postponed until they were on the point of crossing the border, or that the Montenegrin guard, which witnessed the attack, should have been deterred by any feeling of respect for the sanctity of the frontier from firing a shot in their defence.

Whilst, however, the occurrence of any massacre on a large scale is denied, it is admitted on all sides that the whole of the country between Gussinje and the frontier of Serbia has been in a state of the greatest disorder and commotion. Frontier raids, armed encounters, and wayside murders have been of frequent occurrence, and the total number of lives sacrificed in this way during the past two months would no doubt be found to be far in excess of the score reported to Sir Mackenzie Wallace. At the time of the gathering of the clans at Gussinje, to which I alluded in my last, it was asserted here on behalf of the Albanians, that they had to exact vengeance for no less than twenty-three lives taken by the Montenegrins on the marches alone.

A certain amount of emigration from the Kossovo Vilayet into the Principality seems to have taken place, but I gather that the emigrants went thither for the purpose rather of soliciting pecuniary and other assistance than of establishing themselves in a territory which is notoriously incapable of supporting its own population. In effect, the Turks assert that many of these people returned to their homes equipped with rifles and ammunition furnished by the Montenegrins, and doubtless some of the encounters which subsequently took place might be traced to this source.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

No. 49.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(Telegraphic.)

Salonica, August 5, 1890, 9:30 P.M.

THE two Arnaut women referred to in my telegram of yesterday's date were killed by railway engine about ten months ago, instead of three. With this exception, the information I reported in above telegram is confirmed in a letter which I have received from the Manager of the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway.

With regard to the other abominable excesses described in the "Daily News," I am not in a position at present to verify them.

The Austro-Hungarian Consul-General told me yesterday that he has reported to his Government that the statements in the "Daily News" with regard to the condition of the Vilayet of Cossova are grossly exaggerated.

No. 50.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

My Lord,

Salonica, July 30, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my Report of this date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the state of affairs in the district of Dibra.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Salonica, July 30, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Excellency, a copy of a statement which I have received from a well-informed source relative to the state of affairs in the district of Dibra.

It appears that the provincial authorities of the Vilayet of Monastir are about to adopt some energetic measures against the turbulent inhabitants of this district.

The Ferik Fazli Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the 3rd Army Corps, has been ordered by the Porte to proceed to Dibra to personally direct any military operations which may be required. The garrison of the district, which consists at present of five battalions, is to be reinforced by two more battalions, one of which will be detached from the garrison of Monastir, and the other from that of Ipek. The latter was timed to arrive yesterday at Mitrovitza, where it was to be entrained for Uskup, and thence to march to Dibra.

The Liva Abdullah Pasha, who has been appointed Civil and Military Governor of Dibra, has been acting during the last three years as President of the Court-martial of Salonica. He is an energetic officer, and, by his impartial and humane administration of justice during his tenure of this office, has won the esteem and respect of all classes of the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Statement respecting the State of Affairs in the District of Dibra.

(Extract.)

ONE month ago, the Albanian, Abdullah Pasha, ex-Aide-de-camp of Sultan Aziz, was sent to Dibra by the authorities at Constantinople, to raise a battalion of irregulars for the purpose of protecting the district against brigands. The inhabitants of Dibra would give him no troops, and told him to leave the town.

Subsequently, the Mutessarif of Dibra caused Proclamation to be made to the

[601]

inhabitants that no one should carry arms in the town. Some Albanians disobeyed this order, and were arrested by the police. On the 20th July, the news of their arrest having spread in the neighbourhood, 500 armed Albanians assembled, marched to Dibra, and sent two emissaries to demand the release of the prisoners, saying that, if the demand were not complied with, they would attack the town. The garrison, consisting of two battalions of regulars, prepared to resist the threatened attack. At this moment a storm of rain burst over the district, and the 500 Albanians were cut off from Dibra by the swelling of the river, so that they were obliged to retire. They, however, left word with the Mutessarif that they would return with doubled forces if the prisoners were not released.

In consequence of these events, the Liva Abdullah Pasha, President of the Court-martial of Salonica, has been appointed Civil and Military Commander of Dibra, and has to-day left Salonica for his post. Fazli Pasha, Commander of the 3rd Army Corps, has been ordered to go from Monastir to Dibra with two battalions, which will raise the force in that district to seven battalions of regulars.

Salonica, July 29, 1890.

No. 51.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 6.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, August 6, 1890.

THE Exarch received last night the two Berats for the Bulgarian Bishops. It is said that Bishop Theodosius leaves to-day for Uscup.

No. 52.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

My Lord,

Sophia, July 24, 1890.

AN article in the semi-official newspaper "Svobodá" welcomes the news of the concession of Berats to the Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia as a step towards establishing a sincere friendship between Turks and Bulgarians in the Balkan Peninsula, and after commenting in very moderate and sensible language on the importance of the decision taken by the Sublime Porte, it says that Bulgaria will have an interest in upholding, as far as their strength permits, the existence of Turkey as they would their own, and that it remains for the Macedonian Bulgarians to show themselves worthy of the Sultan's favour by redoubling their feelings of devotion to a Sovereign who has shown himself so gracious and just to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 53.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 30, 1890.

DURING my absence on leave the question of Berats for two Bulgarian Bishops came very much to the front, and reached almost its solution.

During its progress Mr. Fane kept your Lordship informed, with immense labour, of all the details, and you will be glad to hear that Baron de Calice and M. de Radowitz have both expressed to me their obligations to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires for the way in which he had always consulted with their Excellencies and acted in concert with them on this important question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 3.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, August 2, 1890.

DURING my absence your Lordship has received from Mr. Fane ample details as to the various phases of the Berats of the Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia, and there is nothing new which I could add on the subject.

The Sultan's Iradé sanctioning the issue of these two Berats by the Ministers was delivered at the Porte on Saturday, the 26th ultimo, and the delay in filling up these two important documents is, I am assured, only due to the four successive days of the Kourban Baïram festival in the first instance, and, secondly, to the long time that the Bulgarian Exarch has taken in presenting his application for them to the Minister of Justice in the proper form, with the names of the prelates his Beatitude has selected for filling up the Metropolitan Sees of Uscup and Ochrida.

In the Eastern Churches all Episcopal Sees are now called Metropolitan.

The Archbishop Theodosius is to go back to Uscup, where he had been on a temporary Mission some months ago, and the one from Adrianople is to be transferred to Ochrida.

The discontent amongst the Greeks appears to be very great, and up to the last moment they entertained hopes that their active support by the Russian Embassy would prevent the Sultan from allowing the Grand Vizier to carry out this measure so obnoxious to their national pretensions, or would at least persuade His Imperial Majesty to render it useless and unacceptable to the Bulgarians by attaching to it conditions which they could not possibly accept.

These conditions being nothing less than that the Khalif should declare the Bulgarians to be schismatics from the Orthodox Church, and compel their priesthood to wear a badge to distinguish them from the Orthodox clergy.

No. 55.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

My Lord,

Sophia, August 2, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that, upon the demand of the Russian subject Kalobkoff, who was condemned to penal servitude for participation in the Panitza conspiracy, the German Representative presented yesterday, at the request of the Russian Government, a demand for his extradition in conformity with the Capitulations, and that Baron von Wangenheim also asked for copies of the entire evidence brought forward during the trial, or included in the "Dossier," which was submitted to the Court.

The Bulgarian Government has not given any answer to the note of the German Representative, but he has been assured verbally that the matter will receive full consideration without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 56.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Yovitchich.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Foreign Office, August 8, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 1st instant, in which you express the hope of your Government that Her Majesty's Government will support the modified demand for satisfaction which the Servian Representative at Constantinople has been instructed to make in connection with the recent murder of the Servian Vice-Consul at Prishtina.

In reply I have to state that Her Majesty's Government have not received any information tending to show that the murder was instigated by the local authorities, or was due to other than private motives.

They cannot, therefore, support a demand on the Porte for compensation which under similar circumstances they would not be prepared to grant themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord,

Salonica, August 5, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note which I have received this afternoon from M. Horhgrassl, the Chief Engineer and Acting Manager of the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway, from which it appears that the accident in which the two women were killed occurred so far back as the 21st September, 1889, or about ten and a-half months ago, and not three months ago, as stated in my telegram.

With regard to other excesses described by the correspondent, I am not in a position at present to verify them. The Manager of the railway is of opinion that the correspondent has been misled, and that the stories he has related were engendered by political animosities. Count Viscovitch, the Austrian Consul-General, who is well informed as to occurrences in the district of Uskup where there is an Austrian Consul, says that these stories are characterized by gross exaggeration, and has reported in the above sense to his Government.

I need not send a copy of the *procès-verbal* referred to in the Manager's note, as it merely consists of the evidence of the railway officials who were in the train when the accident occurred.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 57.

M. Horhgrassl to Consul-General Blunt.

Cher Mr. Blunt,

Salonique, [No date].

CI-INCLUS le procès-verbal concernant l'écrasement de deux femmes Turques le 21 Septembre, 1889, près de Kacianik. Un parent de ces femmes a tiré un coup de fusil vers la machine du train le 1^{er} Novembre, 1889, par lequel l'habit du chauffeur de la machine a été troué, mais personne n'a été blessé. Cet accident n'a pas eu des autres suites jusqu'à présent.

Ce procès-verbal faisant partie de l'archive d'inspection de l'exploitation j'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir me le renvoyer après en avoir pris connaissance.

Ci-inclus aussi la carte de visite du correspondant du "Daily News."

D'après une dépêche que je viens de recevoir sur ma demande de la station d'Uskup ce monsieur a fait une seule excursion d'Uskup sur notre chemin de fer jusqu'à Verisovitch; donc il n'était pas du tout à Pristina.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) HORHGRASSL.

(Translation.)

Dear Mr. Blunt,

Salonica, [No date].

INCLOSED is the Report concerning the crushing to death of two Turkish women on the 21st September, 1889, near Kacianik. A relation of these women fired a shot at the locomotive on the 1st November, 1889, by which the fireman's coat was perforated, but no one was wounded. This accident has hitherto had no further consequences.

As this Report forms part of the archives of the management, I have the honour to request you to send it back after perusing it.

Inclosed is also the visiting card of the correspondent of the "Daily News."

According to a telegram I have just received, at my request, from the Uskup station, this gentleman has made only one trip on our railway from Uskup to Verisovitch; consequently, he has not been to Pristina at all.

Accept, &c

(Signed) HORHGRASSL.

No. 58.

Mr. Gosling to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 11.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, August 7, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an article from the "Journal de Saint-Petersbourg" of to-day, which has reference to the recent grant by the Sultan of Berats to the Macedonian Bishops.

Your Lordship will see that it is expressly denied that any note of protest has been addressed by the Russian Government to the Porte, on the ground that it is not a matter in which the honour of Russia is in any way concerned, but that the Sublime Porte is blamed for not having sufficiently taken into consideration the complications which may ensue in a question where the conflicting interests of different nationalities are so much at stake.

The journal further adds that the Porte might have shown less anxiety to yield to the demands of M. Stambouloff, inasmuch as they were not actuated by the desire to render any service to the Church, but were merely pressed for political purposes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUDLEY GOSLING.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Extract from the "Journal de Saint-Petersbourg" of July 26 (August 7), 1890.

NOUS voyons par les journaux de Grèce qu'on y a ressenti comme une vive atteinte portée à la dignité du pays et de l'Église les Bérats par lesquelles le Sultan a autorisé l'envoi de trois Évêques Bulgares en Macédoine. Le même sentiment se manifeste en Serbie. On a aussi parlé à cette occasion d'une note Russe, voire même d'une protestation. Il n'y avait pas lieu pour la Russie de faire une pareille démarche, sa dignité n'étant engagée d'aucune façon. Dans les contrées dont il s'agit, la différence des nationalités fait surgir des difficultés d'application qui peuvent créer de véritables complications et sur lesquelles il fallait appeler l'attention de la Sublime Porte. Celle-ci semble avoir passé outre, ne se rendant peut-être pas suffisamment compte des conséquences que sa décision pourrait entraîner.

La Porte, en tout cas, aurait pu se montrer moins pressée d'accéder aux désirs de M. Stambouloff, lesquels certainement ne procèdent pas du besoin de rendre service à l'Église; ils émanent de préoccupations politiques d'un ordre bien moins respectable et auxquelles, ce semble, la Porte avait moins que tout autre un intérêt à prêter son concours. Ce sont là des observations qui s'imposent et le Représentant de la Russie à Constantinople a dû s'en faire l'interprète. Mais aucune note n'a été présentée.

No. 59.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 15.)

Sir,

Salonica, August 9, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two Reports from Mr. Vice-Consul Shipley respecting the disturbed state of affairs in the district of Dibra.

Boné Vélé Gheorghieff, who has been condemned by the court-martial of Monastir to ten years' imprisonment, was employed in fomenting disturbances in Upper Albania by the Russian Kalubkoff of Sophia, who was implicated in the Panitza conspiracy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Vice-Consul Shipley to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Monastir, July 26, 1890.

WITH reference to the extract from the Salonica "Pharos of Macedonia" of the 17th ultimo, forwarded to me in your despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report to you that nothing here is known of any rising on the part of the population such as is referred to in the "Pharos," and of which the chief is alleged to have been a certain Gheorghieff, formerly of the Bulgarian army. The following extract, however, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose, from the "Monastir," the official Gazette of the vilayet, of the 22nd instant, containing the announcement of the final condemnation by the central authority at Constantinople of Boné Vélé Gheorghieff, of Sophia, and his associates, arrested in the early part of last year at Dibra on the charge of being engaged in a seditious movement in that district,

may perhaps serve to explain the mistake into which the editor of the "Pharos" has apparently been led.

With regard to Gheorghieff's proceedings whilst in the Malissia of Dibra itself, nothing further has transpired beyond what was elicited at the time of his arrest last year. By all those who are acquainted with that district, his attempt is still looked upon as an ill-advised one, and he himself, it is considered, is fortunate to have escaped with his life. The fact, however, that he should have succeeded in putting himself in direct communication with Mussulman mountaineers of Dibra, is in itself noteworthy, and acquires additional interest at the present moment, owing to the very disquieting reports which have lately reached here as to the disturbed condition of that district.

Between these reports and Gheorghieff's visit to Dibra of last year there is, I believe, no connection whatever; the coincidence, nevertheless, supplies one more to the many arguments which have been put forward as to the imperative necessity on the part of the Porte to make good its authority over the mountain tribes of North and North-East Albania, for there can be little doubt that the attempt made by Gheorghieff will continue to be repeated by others so long as the chief, if not the only, obstacle to success is in the loyalty of the Albanians themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Extract from the "Monastir Gazette" of July 22, 1890.

(Translation.)

JUDICIAL SENTENCE.—A communication has been received from the Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of War, Constantinople, to the effect that the four under-mentioned individuals, viz., Boné Vélé Gheorghieff, a native of Sophia, and Isaak Radé, Malik-ben-Zenil, and Taleb Kara-ben-Bairam, Ottoman subjects of the villages of Lazaropolyé, Kovatchitch, and Poltchitzé, in the Dibra Sandjak respectively, have, by Imperial Decree, been condemned to the following terms of detention in a fortress, viz., Boné Vélé Gheorghieff to ten years in the fortress of Acre; Isaak, the Bulgarian, to six years at Piassa; and Malik to four years at Rhodes. With regard to Taleb Kara, the period of imprisonment he has already undergone is considered sufficient, and he is, therefore, liberated under guarantee.

The above individuals were arrested in the January of last year on the charge of fomenting sedition in the Malissia of Dibra. The matter was investigated at the time by the Dibra and Monastir Military Tribunals, and a Report of the proceedings, which resulted in the conviction of the accused, was forwarded to Constantinople.

Steps are being taken to give effect to the sentences in question.

Inclosure 3 in No. 59.

Vicc-Consul Shipley to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Monastir, August 2, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that his Excellency Fazli Pasha, General commanding the Troops in the Monastir Vilayet, left this on Thursday last for Dibra, accompanied by two battalions of infantry and a small battery of mountain artillery.

Accounts have been reaching Monastir for some time past as to the unsettled state of the above district, and it was, I understand, owing to the discontent prevailing among Dibriotes generally that Omer Pasha, the Mutessarif, was recently removed. His place was taken temporarily by Colonel Hussein Bey, the Chief of Police of Monastir, and it was further decided to intrust a certain Abdullah Pasha, of Dibra origin, with the duty of forming a body of volunteers to act as local police in the district of Lower Dibra.

The above measures, however, far from restoring order, seem to have had the contrary effect, for it is admitted by the authorities themselves that about a fortnight ago the mountaineers had obtained possession of one of the two passes commanding the principal approaches to Dibra, and there is little doubt that Fazli Pasha's hurried departure was due to an urgent representation on the part of Hussein Bey, to the

[155]

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effect that the mountaineers of Upper Dibra had assembled also, and were threatening his communication with Monastir by seizing the one remaining pass still open.

The situation is, therefore, not altogether without danger; it is, however, not generally believed that any conflict will take place between the mountaineers and the Imperial forces.

Fazli Pasha's mission is understood to have been undertaken rather with the view of coming to terms with the disaffected tribes than for the purpose of bringing them permanently under the authority of the Sultan. Indeed, were it otherwise, the position of Fazli Pasha himself would be likely to become critical, as, even with the troops above referred to, he has only seven battalions, or some 3,500 men, at his disposal, a force entirely inadequate for the purpose of undertaking serious operations.

I may perhaps be allowed to add, that as I propose to visit in the course of a few days Ochrida and Struga, the latter of which places is in constant communication with Dibra, I have purposely deferred reporting at length upon the recent occurrences in that district until my return, when I hope to be in possession of full information as to what is passing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 60.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 18.)

My Lord,

Athens, August 11, 1890.

THE announcement of the issue of the Berats to the Bulgarian Bishopricks in Macedonia has caused a certain amount of excitement here; the newspapers use rather inflammatory language, and yesterday (Sunday) prayers were offered up in one of the churches on behalf of the struggle undertaken for the Greek Church by the Patriarch of Constantinople, and were followed by an impassioned political harangue by one of the deacons.

Other public meetings have been held, and on the 14th a monster meeting is announced to be held on the open space in front of the Exhibition.

So far the Government has discouraged the agitation, and it is supposed to be possible that the all-absorbing question of the now imminent elections may shortly distract public attention from the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 61.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 21.)

My Lord,

Salonica, August 15, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith translated extracts from the Salonica and Cossova "Gazettes," refuting the statements published in the "Daily News" of the 29th ultimo with regard to an outrage alleged to have been perpetrated by Arnauts on the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Extract from the "Salonica Gazette" of August 11, 1890.

(Translation.)

THE English newspaper, the "Daily News," of the 28th July, 1890, publishes, under the heading, "Outrages in Macedonia," a communication from its special correspondent.

The correspondent's statements are so wild, and so remote from the truth, that it

is impossible not to wonder at an important newspaper like the "Daily News" admitting them into its columns.

According to his story, an Arnaut woman was killed by an engine on the line and, in revenge for this, about seventy Arnauts posted themselves on a rock near the tunnel of Demir Kapu, fired on the train in which the correspondent was travelling, killed the stoker, and wounded three Mussulman passengers.

There is no foundation for this story. The railway line has never been the scene of any such occurrence. Order and security have always been maintained along it by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan.

The correspondent thinks fit to publish to the world his malicious inventions as facts which he himself has witnessed. We have no doubt that the flame of falsehood which he has kindled will quickly be extinguished.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of August 6, 1890.

(Translation.)

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Daily News" states, in a letter to his paper, that a train on the Salonica Railway in which he was travelling was fired at by seventy or eighty Arnauts, near the station Zelnikova, in the neighbourhood of Uskup; that one of the engineers was killed and three Mussulman passengers were wounded.

That such an outrage should have been committed on the Salonica-Uskup Railway, that the safety of travellers to the frontier States should have been thus endangered under the firm and orderly government of His Majesty the Sultan, was thoroughly incredible. The whole story, like others of this correspondent, is a malicious fabrication, and is denied *in toto*.

No. 62.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)

(Extract.)

Sophia, August 12, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Stambouloff returned to Sophia yesterday, and called upon me in the evening to express to your Lordship his sincere thanks for the assistance which Her Majesty's Government had so efficaciously given, in concert with other Great Powers, in the matter of the Berats for the Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia.

M. Stambouloff said that the satisfactory settlement of this question had not only greatly strengthened his position and that of the present régime, but that it had brought home to the Bulgarians the advantages of a friendly policy towards the Suzerain Power. It was certain that it would tend to develop still further throughout the country a feeling of autonomy and independence. Owing to its favourable impression, he had succeeded in coming to an amicable understanding with the Holy Synod.

No. 63.

Consul Cumberbatch to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 22.)

(Extract.)

Adrianople, August 14, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Mgr. Cynesius, Bulgarian Bishop of Ochrida, has left Adrianople to take up the duties of his new diocese, in accordance with the recent Berat delivered by the Porte.

No. 64.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord,

Salonica, August 18, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 5th and 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter which I have received from a

[155]

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reliable quarter at Pristina relative to the outrages alleged to have been perpetrated by Arnauts against the Servian school in that town. (*Vide* "Daily News" of the 29th July, 1890.)

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Mr. ————— to Consul-General Blunt.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Pristina, August 13, 1890.

IN answer to your inquiries respecting the affair at the Servian school in this town, I hasten to inform you that it is not true that Arnauts attacked it, or in any way molested its teachers. What really happened is this: Police agents of the Local Government were sent by the Governor of Pristina to overhaul the library of the school, and finding a book containing chapters against the Turkish Government, they arrested two masters and the mistress of the school, whom they sent to the Vali at Uscup. One of the masters has been imprisoned at Uscup; the other master and the mistress are still detained there pending further inquiry into the case, in connection with which two members of the Christian community have been summoned from here to Uscup.

I am, &c.
(Signed) _____

No. 65.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

My Lord,

Athens, August 19, 1890.

DURING the last few days the agitation with reference to the granting of the Berats to the Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia has appeared to be on the increase. It is difficult as yet to make out whether this is in consequence of any real feeling on the subject among the people, or to the manœuvres of agitators ready to seize any opportunity of throwing a stone on Turkey, or of those politicians wishing to take advantage of the incident as a means of attacking the Government. Possibly all these motives may have something to do with the outcry, which is certainly, for the moment at all events, on the increase.

The meeting announced for last Sunday, of which I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my despatch of the 11th instant, went off quietly. It was fairly well attended; the speakers were of course violent; but after a series of Resolutions, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, had been passed by acclamation, the crowd dispersed in an orderly manner. This meeting had been rather discouraged than otherwise by the Government; but, although the Opposition papers indulge in daily invectives against M. Tricoupi for his inactivity "when the interests of Hellenism are threatened," the meeting did not record any expression of this feeling, contenting itself, as your Lordship will observe, with a protest against the action of the Porte, a declaration of approbation of the attitude of the Œcumenical Patriarch, and an assurance to the Greek Government of their devotion to the interests of the Church and the cause of Hellenism.

The "Palingenesia," which, as I had the honour of informing your Lordship, is in distinct relations with M. Tricoupi, in its issue of this morning states that the Government is deeply affected by the Cretan and Macedonian questions; but as it wishes its action to be effective, it postpones it till the naval forces of the country are on a capable footing.

This agrees with the remarks made to me yesterday by M. Tricoupi, and on previous occasions. His Excellency said that Greece was not in a position for the moment to do anything but protest; but that she would bide her time, and take advantage of the first opportunity of herself getting compensation for the injury done to her interests. As I have before ineffectually asked what form this indemnification would take, I did not repeat the question, but contented myself with asking his Excellency what constituted the past injury to Greece in the action of the Porte. He replied that it was a blow at the ecclesiastical supremacy of the Patriarch, and,

consequently, at the interests of the Greek Church; but, I pointed out, the Bulgarian Church had been excommunicated by that authority, who had thereby cast them off, and could no longer pretend to any authority over or interest in them; how, therefore, could anything they did affect the interests of Orthodoxy? His Excellency said that the Bulgarian priests still continued to wear the same dress as Greek priests. Let them change the dress, and nothing more would be said.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

Inclosure in No. 65.

*Resolutions passed at a Public Meeting held on the Place des Colonnes on Sunday,
August 17, 1890.*

(Translation.)

WE, the people of Athens and the Piræus, and all our brethren of Greece assembled to-day at a national meeting on the Place des Colonnes;

Appreciating the dangers which are being run by the Chamber and the nation;

Protest before Christendom and the civilized world against the violation of the privileges of the Œcumenical Patriarch, and the threatened attack on the rights of Hellenism in Macedonia, as well as against the outrages committed wherever Greeks are under servitude.

We approve the firm attitude of the Œcumenical Patriarch, Dionisius V, and of the bodies who co-operate with him, towards the Sublime Porte, and we are convinced that they will steadfastly persist to the last in their struggle on behalf of the Orthodox Church.

We assure the Greek Government that Hellenism is ready to make any sacrifice to protect and secure the privileges of the Church and the rights of Hellenism.

We request the Committee to present this Resolution to the King and the President of the Council, and to publish it in the Greek and foreign press.

No. 66.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)

My Lord,

Sophia, August 24, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that the Bulgarian Government have replied to the demand of the Russian Government made through the German Representative at Sophia, that they consent to deliver up the Russian subject, Porfiri Kalobkoff, condemned for complicity in the Panitsa plot to nine years' imprisonment: this concession is made, the note adds, not in virtue of the Capitulations, which do not entitle the Russian Government to make this demand, but simply out of deference to the German Government and its respected Representative at Sophia. Finally, the hope is expressed that the sentence passed on the prisoner will be duly carried out.

Baron von Wangenheim informs me that the prison authorities lost no time in informing him that they hold Kalobkoff at his disposal, and that he intends to send him by to-morrow's train in charge of one of his cavasses to the Turkish frontier, where he will be taken over by an official of the Russian Embassy and conducted to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 67.

Vice-Consul Lamb to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 5.)

Sir,

Scutari, August 20, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of a paragraph in the official "Glas Tzernagortza" of last Saturday, giving an account of a conflict which took place on the Montenegrin frontier on the 5th of this month. Only the vaguest rumour of this affair had reached Scutari, but the fact that Tahir Pasha found it

necessary to proceed to Plava at the head of a military force seems to prove the gravity of the situation, for less than a fortnight previously Tahir Pasha had returned to his head-quarters at Barana, after having, as he believed, taken ample measures for the maintenance of order in the Gussigne-Plava district.

True to its invariable custom of recording only those frontier excesses in which the Albanians were apparently the aggressors, the "Cettinje Gazette" omits all mention of another conflict which took place between the frontier clans of Kutchi and Klementi only two days before the date above given, and which resulted in the loss of at least a dozen lives.

In this instance two Klementi, who had crossed the border in pursuit of some straying cattle, were attacked by a number of Montenegrins and eventually killed, after defending themselves for some time from a hillock on which they had taken refuge. Their fellow-clansmen, attracted by the firing, continued the engagement until nightfall, killing, it is said, seven Montenegrins, and losing three more of their own number.

The Prince is said to have caused the arrest of the persons most responsible for the commencement of this affair, while the Turks, on their side, dispatched an officer to the Klementi to endeavour to restrain them from attempting further reprisals. Both Governments, indeed, seem sincere in their efforts to preserve peace on the frontier, and as, in less than a month from now, the mountaineers will begin to withdraw from their advanced summer quarters on the border, it may be hoped that they will be successful in preventing any more serious outbreaks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Extract from the Official Gazette of Montenegro of August 4 (16), 1890.

(Translation.)

CONFLICT ON THE BORDER.—Although both the Montenegrin and the Ottoman Governments are doing everything to maintain peace on their frontiers, yet the control of the local authorities over the Albanians does not seem to be sufficiently strict. Thus, on the Tuesday of last week, a band of mountaineers crossed our frontier in the direction of Andrievitza, "with a design of killing a Montenegrin."

Our frontier guard perceived them and gave the alarm, and our borderers hastened to meet and encounter the aggressors. In the fight which ensued one Montenegrin and five Albanians were killed. The Ottoman Commissioner, Tahir Pasha, has left Berana for Plava and Gussigne with troops to punish the culprits and establish order, and our authorities have likewise taken measures to avoid all conflicts with the Albanians and to punish offenders.

No. 68.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

My Lord,

Salonica, August 30, 1890.

WITH further reference to my despatches of the 5th and 15th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the reply which the "Secrétaire-Général de la Compagnie des Chemins de Fer Orientaux" has received from the editor of the "Daily News" to his letter contradicting the statements of the correspondent of that newspaper relative to the outrages alleged to have been committed by Arnauts on the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway.

The "Daily News," as your Lordship will observe, has dispensed with the services of the correspondent in question.

I am, however, informed that the effect of the inaccurate and sensational reports on the state of affairs in Upper Macedonia, as published in the above-named newspaper, has been to move the provincial authorities to take some measures of police surveillance against newspaper correspondents in general, and to excite the sensitive and vindictive feelings of the Arnaut Chiefs of Prisrend, Pristina, and Uscup. This state of things may expose correspondents visiting the interior to much inconvenience and some personal danger.

Be this as it may, it having been rumoured at Uscup that the author of the letters from Pristina which were recently published in the "Daily News" had derived some of his information from the Austro-Hungarian Consul at that place, M. Schmuker, a letter of this Consul appeared in last week's issue of the "Cossova Gazette" declaring that he had furnished no such information, and that the reports forwarded to the "Daily News" by the correspondent referred to are without any foundation in fact. Inclosure No. 2 is a translated copy of the Consul's letter.

As another instance of the mischief caused by the publication of these sensational reports, I may mention the fact that a firm of English merchants which was treating for the purchase of a mine in the interior has been discouraged by the alleged alarming condition of the country from investing any capital in such an enterprise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

The Editor of the "Daily News" to the Secretary of the Oriental Railways.

Monsieur,

Londres, le 15 Août, 1890.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 14 courant.

En réponse, je viens vous informer qu'un démenti formel du récit dont il est question a paru au "Daily News," sous forme d'une explication faite à la Chambre des Communes par M. le Sous-Secrétaire des Affaires Étrangères, Sir James Fergusson, laquelle a été publiée en détail dans notre journal.

Par le même courrier, je vous envoie un numéro contenant le compte-rendu.

J'ajouterai que le correspondant qui nous avait envoyé le récit ne fait plus partie de la rédaction du "Daily News," en aucune capacité.

Je vous prie, Monsieur, de croire que je regrette vivement que vous ayez eu la peine de faire votre réclamation.

Agréé, &c.
(Signé) Le Directeur-Gérant du "Daily News."

(Translation.)

Sir,

London, August 15, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant.

In reply, I beg to inform you that a formal contradiction of the statement in question has appeared in the "Daily News," in the form of an explanation given in the House of Commons by the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Sir James Fergusson, which has been published in full in our newspaper.

By the same mail I send you a copy containing a report of the proceedings.

I may add that the correspondent who sent us the account is no longer on the staff of the "Daily News" in any capacity.

I beg you, Sir, to believe that I deeply regret that you should have been put to the trouble of making your request.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) The Acting Editor of the "Daily News."

Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of August 20, 1890.

DÉMENTI.

(Traduction.)

LE "Daily News" de Londres a dernièrement publié un article où il dit que le vilayet de Cossova est le théâtre de toutes espèces de sauvagerie, en ajoutant que le correspondant de la dite feuille se fait fort de corroborer son récit du témoignage d'un Consul étranger.

Je prie votre honorable journal de publier que je n'ai fourni aucun renseignement au sujet de l'affaire en question; que je ne suis pas le Consul mentionné par le susdit correspondant, et que les incidents décrits par lui sont sans fondement.

(Signé) SCHMUKER,
Consul Austro-Hongrois à Uscup.

(Translation.)

CONTRADICTION.

(Translation.)

THE "Daily News" of London recently published an article in which it was stated that the Vilayet of Cossova is the scene of every kind of outrage, adding that the correspondent of the said paper was in a position to corroborate his account by the evidence of a foreign Consul.

I beg your esteemed paper to publish the statement that I have not supplied any information with regard to the matter in question; that I am not the Consul mentioned by the said correspondent; and that there is no foundation for the incidents described by him.

(Signed) SCHMUKER,
Austro-Hungarian Consul at Uscup.

No. 69.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 5.)

Sir,

Salonica, August 30, 1890.

THE "Neue Freie Presse" of the 26th instant contains a paragraph of which the following is a translation:—

"The 'Odjek' newspaper published in Belgrade states that the arrival at Salonica of the Bulgarian Bishop Theodosius of Uscup gave rise to disturbances on the part of the Servians, Macedonians, and Greeks, and that the Bishop had in consequence to remain some time on board the steamer, from which he finally landed secretly and continued in disguise his journey to Uscup, and that the military force had to be called out to disperse the mob."

The above statements are absolutely devoid of truth.

The presence at Salonica of the Bulgarian Bishop of Uscup and of his colleague of Ochrida has not given rise to any the least disturbance on the part of the local communities, and, as I had the honour to report to your Excellency in my telegrams of the 12th and 19th instant, these Prelates, during their stay at Salonica, met with all proper marks of attention and assistance from the Turkish authorities.

I may add that I have since heard from well-informed sources that both Bishops have been everywhere received by the Bulgarians in Macedonia with popular enthusiasm and demonstrations of joy, and that, so far, their presence in this province has not caused any disturbance of the public peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 70.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 8.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, September 8, 1890.

THE general elections were carried out yesterday with the following result: 260 supporters of the present Administration, and 35 of the Opposition, were returned. At four places only disturbances occurred, and these were insignificant.

No. 71.

Vice-Consul Richards to Mr. O'Connor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 19.)

Sir,

Bourgas, September 8, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that the elections for the Sobranjé were held in this Department on the 7th instant, and resulted in the return of the Government candidates throughout the Department, most of them indeed having represented the same constituencies in the last Sobranjé. Among the successful candidates, a list of whose names is appended on a separate sheet, the only persons of note are Dr. Stransky, the ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and M. Slarcoff, ex-President of the Sobranjé, the

former having been elected to represent the Canton of Bourgas, and the latter that of Anchialo.

As regards the elections held in this town, I can vouch for the fact that, with the exception of one or two arrests of young men who were apparently bent on creating a disturbance, everything was carried on in a quiet and methodical fashion. There was perhaps a greater show of enthusiasm than is usually the case on these occasions; one large band of men forming a procession paraded at its head a banner, on which were inscribed the initials of the three Government candidates, while another, over 300 strong, the Sozopolis contingent, marched about the town for some time to the inspiring strains of the local band. These demonstrations, however, almost entirely ceased towards midday, from which time until 5 p.m., when the result of the poll was declared, things were very much quieter, the fact being that most of the votes were registered in the morning, as is generally the case. The Prefect informs me that there were no disturbances in any part of the Department. As regards this canton, besides the votes given to the three successful candidates, M. Dimitroff, ex-Secretary to the Prefecture and actually President of the Administrative Council of the Department, received 86 votes, M. Voulco Stancheff, ex-Mayor, 60 votes, and a M. Stratieff 70 votes, while a few votes here and there were given to other persons.

As regards the number of votes given, it would appear that a third only of the registered electors of this canton exercised their privilege on this occasion, the fact being, according to the Prefect, that the vast majority of the peasants of the neighbouring villages abstained from voting. This, I believe, is usually the case to some extent, the villagers being apparently extremely averse to going even comparatively short distances for the purpose of voting. In the other cantons, an even smaller proportion of the number of electors registered their votes. This indifference on the subject of the suffrage, which is extremely regrettable, may to some extent be accounted for by the fact, that the weather during the greater part of the day was extremely inclement, and the roads, considering the season of the year, were unusually muddy.

In conclusion, I would wish to state that it is very commonly reported in the town that the electors were subjected to a very considerable amount of moral if not actually physical suasion, in order to coerce them into giving their votes for the Government candidates. On this point, I am convinced that there exists a great deal of ill-natured exaggeration. That the elections were perfectly free, as we understand the term in Europe, I will not go so far as to say, for there was no doubt, on the part of the local authorities, a certain amount of dictation to individuals, as indeed to whole communities, as to the advisability of voting for the Ministerial candidates, but when it is asserted that intending voters were obliged to show their ballot papers to the gendarmes stationed at the door of the Mairie, and that only those who were in favour of the Government candidates were permitted to vote, I must enter a protest to the effect that this, so far as I have been able to ascertain, was not the case, that there should have been even dictation on this subject on the part of the authorities is a fact much to be regretted, because I firmly believe that in any case the Government candidates would have been elected, though probably by smaller majorities. Such a fact undoubtedly supplies a tremendous handle to the opponents and ill-wishers of the Government, of which they avail themselves with avidity for the purpose of general and indiscriminate vituperation.

M. Stambouloff's policy has of late been so successful, and his popularity has in consequence increased so rapidly, that I cannot but think that in any case his nominees were sure of their election.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

No. 72.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord,

Salonica, September 10, 1890.

I AVAILED myself of the opportunity of Mr. Assistant Monahan returning here after his leave of absence to instruct him to remain two or three days on his way back at Uskup, and make inquiries about the atrocities alleged by the "Daily News" to have been perpetrated by Arnauts in the Vilayet of Cossova. I have now the honour to inclose his Report to me on the result of his inquiries.

[155]

F

I have conveyed to Mr. Monahan my approval of the manner in which he has conducted his inquiries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Mr. Monahan to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Salonica, September 9, 1890.

IN conformity with your instructions, at the close of my leave of absence I stopped three days at Uskup, for the purpose of inquiring into the truth of the atrocities which, according to the "Daily News" of the 29th July and the 2nd, 4th, and 9th August, have been committed by Arnauts in the Vilayet of Cossova; and I have now the honour to report to you the following result of my inquiries:—

1. With regard to the alleged outrage on the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway.

The Austrian Consul at Uskup and the railway officials there told me it was certain that Weitz, the "Daily News" correspondent, never went to Pristina, but made only the one excursion on the line from Uskup to Verisovitz and back. The correspondent states that he delivered a letter of introduction at Pristina to Edhem Pasha, who received him well and provided him with two cavasses. The Austrian Consul at Uskup told me that Edhem Pasha, whom he knew well, and of whose recent movements he was perfectly aware, was never in Pristina during the time of the correspondent's stay in Macedonia.

I need not more particularly refer to the alleged firing by Arnauts on the train near Katschanik, knowing that you have already fully dealt with this story.

2. As to the alleged outrage by Arnauts on the teachers in the Servian school at Pristina.

After careful inquiry, I obtained from a thoroughly authentic source the following account of the circumstances under which this school was closed.

According to the law, every person who wishes to teach in the vilayet must present to the Commission of Public Instruction in Uskup a certificate of character and competency from the Government under which he or she was born. The two male teachers (not three) and the mistress of the Servian school at Pristina had not presented such a certificate, and, consequently, had not the permission of the Government to teach. The male teachers and the mistress were summoned to Uskup, examined by the Commission, and found not to be proper persons to teach. Not only had the mistress taught without permission, but in her school there was found a geography in manuscript which she confessed she had written herself, and in which there was a paragraph to the effect that Cossova, Pristina, &c., belonged to Servia. For these reasons it is not permitted to her to teach. Her name is Elena Mihailovikia, and she is a native of Servia. The teachers were not ill-used. The mistress was not violated. For want of teachers the school at Pristina was closed, but can be opened whenever proper teachers are found.

I heard nothing inconsistent with this account of the matter from any person of whom I made inquiries. The Servian Consul at Uskup, though declining to give me any further information, said I might state on his authority that the mistress was never violated. The correspondent says he obtained his information from a foreign Consul in Pristina. The only Consuls who could have given him the information are the Austrian, Greek, and Servian Consuls at Uskup. All three have denied that they ever told him anything like the story which he has published.

3. With regard to the alleged attack on the farm of Mitar Tijanic.

The Austrian and Greek Consuls at Uskup have never heard of this occurrence. Neither has the Bulgarian Bishop, nor his Secretary, nor any of the railway officials. There is a regular train service between Uskup and Pristina, and, if such a massacre had ever taken place, it is impossible that the railway officials should never have heard of it. M. Baldus, the station-master at Uskup, told me that something of the sort occurred ten years ago when corpses were to be seen lying in the fields near Pristina; and that probably the correspondent concocted his new story with the materials of this old one.

4. With regard to the case of Lazarovitch and his sons.

Except the Servian Consul, all those whom I asked about this matter gave me the same answer, that nothing had been heard in Uskup of the occurrence described by

the correspondent. The Servian Consul would tell me nothing. The Austrian Consul told me that his Vice-Consul at Prisrend had communicated nothing, and therefore knew nothing of this outrage. The railway officials had heard nothing of it. The Greek Consul had heard nothing. M. Baldus, the station-master, told me that when the correspondent was in Uskup a story was started to the effect that the remains of an adult Bulgarian man who had been killed by an Arnaut were carried into Uskup, and thrown before the Vali in the manner described; that this was said to be the result of some private feud concerning a woman; that such is the only possible foundation for the correspondent's story; and that no authentic information on this matter was ever forthcoming. I heard nothing from any one that would tend to confirm the story about the Bulgarian to which the station-master referred.

5. With regard to the correspondent's visit to the Uskup prison.

The Austrian Consul obtained permission from the Vali for Weitz to visit the prison as a correspondent. Weitz did visit it, and, after his visit, told the Consul in the presence of M. Baldus, the station-master, that the prison was as good as a London prison, and spoke especially of its cleanness and general good management and order.

A glance at Weitz's letter in the "Daily News" of the 2nd August, 1890, will show how wilfully he has departed from the truth in this case.

I may add that the Servian Consul not only was extremely reticent about the statements in the "Daily News," but also seemed inclined to give me a gloomy account of the general condition of the country. He, however, denounced Weitz in the strongest terms, and said that he himself was in office in Belgrade when that correspondent was expelled from Servia for publishing false news.

In the result the correspondent stands convicted of several gross and deliberate falsehoods, and I submit there can be no reasonable doubt that he concocted his stories for the purpose of creating an agitation. He has, I hear, been dismissed from the staff of the "Daily News."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. MONAHAN.

No. 73.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord,

Salonica, September 12, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Shipley's despatch relative to the arrival at Monastir of the newly-appointed Metropolitan of Ochrida.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to also forward to your Lordship the inclosed account of the reception of the Bulgarian Metropolitan of Uscup at Velèse (Kiuprulu) and at Uscup, as well as a translation, as published in the "Eastern Express," of the Bishop's "Berat," and of the pastoral letter which he has addressed to the Bulgarians in his diocese.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Vice-Consul Shipley to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Monastir, September 2, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that Mgr. Synesius, the newly appointed Bulgarian Metropolitan of Ochrida, arrived in this town on Saturday, the 23rd ultimo, on his way to take up the duties of his See.

As will be seen from the inclosed extract from the "Monastir," the official Gazette of the vilayet of the 27th ultimo, Mgr. Synesius, after presenting the "Berat" granted to him by the Sultan as Bulgarian Metropolitan to his Excellency Faik Pasha, the Governor-General of the vilayet, left almost immediately for Ochrida, making altogether a stay of about two days only at Monastir.

* Not printed.

[155]

F 2

The reception, nevertheless, accorded to the new Archbishop by the Bulgarian part of the population, left nothing to be desired in point of enthusiasm, a procession of about fifty carriages being formed outside the town by the various deputations of Notables, who, in addition to those of Monastir, had arrived to greet the Metropolitan from Kruschevo and Perlépé, and some even from Ochrida itself. The scholars and children attending the Bulgarian schools were also drawn up to meet the Archbishop, and an escort of gendarmes under the command of a major was provided by the authorities.

A noteworthy feature of the proceedings, and one which could not fail to have been exceedingly gratifying to Mgr. Synesius himself, was the marked friendliness of his reception at the hands of the Turkish authorities. This friendliness has been shown in many ways, one of which was the permission accorded to him by the Governor-General to hold services in the Bulgarian Church at Monastir, to which technically he was not entitled. That the permission in question was not without a certain value is, I think, shown by the dissatisfaction which it has given rise to among certain of the members of the Orthodox Greek party, who have pointed out that the privileges of the new Metropolitan are confined to Ochrida alone, and do not extend to Monastir.

With regard to the ultimate effect which the appointment of Mgr. Synesius is likely to have upon the Bulgarian cause in Macedonia it is impossible at present to speak with any certainty. One class of the population, nevertheless, viz., the poorer Bulgarian peasants who belong to the Exarchate, will be the immediate gainers by the new order of things. The latter, it is to be feared, have too often been made the victims of oppression for want of an intermediary between themselves and the authorities. This duty will, of course, devolve upon the newly appointed Metropolitan, and I need scarcely point out the very great and real service he may be able to render to the population should he succeed in gaining the confidence of the authorities.

As I have frequently ventured to point out, the development of the Bulgarian element in Macedonia is rather a question of time and good government than of political agitation, and, I believe, that it is within the power of the newly appointed Metropolitan to insure at least a certain measure of good government, without having necessarily to rely upon external influence of any kind.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 74.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord,

Salonica, September 12, 1890.

WITH reference to the recent murder of the Servian Acting Consul at Pristina, I have the honour to report that the last number of the "Cossova Gazette," dated the 10th September, states that Ibrahim, found guilty as principal in the murder, has been sentenced to death by the Criminal Court at Uscup, while Raif, Hamdi, and Seif-uddin have been sentenced as accessories to penal servitude, but it is not mentioned for what periods.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 75.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, September 13, 1890.

YOUR Lordship has been addressed by me and by my predecessors on several occasions on the subject of the various privileges claimed *ab antiquo* by the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs in the Ottoman Empire.

These privileges consist, amongst others, in claiming exclusive jurisdiction, both civil and criminal, over all persons in Holy Orders, and in all matrimonial, divorce, and testamentary causes arising amongst persons belonging to their respective Churches.

Saïd Pasha, who was Prime Minister or Grand Vizier, with several short interruptions, from 1880 to 1885, had made it his object to rid Turkey of the Capitulations, giving an exceptional position to foreigners residing in the Ottoman Empire, and also to abolish all exceptional ecclesiastical jurisdiction or privileged position.

In both these he was unsuccessful, and a serious conflict arose at one moment with the Patriarchs, which is about, it is feared, to be revived again, and which excites greatly, not only the Armenian and Greek communities, but awakes warm sympathy in the Hellenic Kingdom.

Here I must observe a curious fact that whenever I have had inquiries made unofficially at the Sublime Porte as to this question, I have been always told either that there had been no real interference by the Government with Patriarchal privileges, or if a misunderstanding was admitted by some high official, the matter of dispute was minimized so as to appear unimportant.

The original dispute which arose under Saïd Pasha's administration had been dropped or, at any rate, was in abeyance during several years, and one could, it appeared, reasonably entertain the hope that we should no longer hear of it, when a couple of years ago, Jevdet Pasha being Minister of Justice, and as such intrusted with all dealings of the Government with the affairs of non-Mussulman creeds, took it up again.

No. 76.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 15, 1890.

FROM the official Reports already published respecting the elections for the Sobranjé, held on the 7th instant, it would appear that there was very little opposition to the Government candidates, and that the system inaugurated by the new Electoral Law, by which the Electoral Bureaux are selected by the district Communal Councils instead of by the mass of the voters, has proved an effective arm in the hands of the Government, and seriously diminished the chances of the Opposition, unless they happen to be supported by popular feeling strong enough to turn the Communal elections in their favour.

The late elections are marked by the increased number of non-voters as compared with those held in 1887—scarcely a fourth of the persons qualified having voted on this occasion, and by the abstention on the part of the Zankoffists to put forward candidates. At the same time, the unanimity prevailing among the National Party and the failure of the Opposition to carry their candidates, even in those towns where they were hitherto supposed to be in a strong majority, tend to show that the main lines of M. Stambouloff's policy are in accordance with the sense and popular feeling of the country.

There is little doubt that the Government exerted all its influence to secure the election of its candidates; but if M. Stambouloff had not been backed by a strong current of popular feeling, it is clearly impossible that he could have carried his nominees without serious opposition, resulting in riots and disorder and the employment of armed force to preserve tranquillity, whereas order does not seem to have been seriously disturbed in any part of the country on the day of the elections. No doubt the stern discipline exercised by M. Stambouloff over his party, and the success attending his efforts for the appointment of Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia, contributed in great measure to a victory which resulted in the return of about 260 Stamboulist candidates out of 288 elected. This majority places M. Stambouloff in the position of being able to control the majority of the votes in the Chamber, even should the Session provoke partial dissensions among his present adherents, and it necessarily secures him the power of dissolving the Chamber, should he be threatened with the appointment of a new Cabinet in case of divergence of views with the Head of the State. It is probably with this view that he exerted all his influence to prevent the election of M. Radoslavoff and the chiefs of his party, while putting forward such Conservative Deputies as MM. Stoïloff and Grécoff, whose following in the country and the Chamber is not sufficient to make him fear that they could form a Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 77.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 3.)

Sir,

Salonica, September 26, 1890.

I REQUESTED Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney to report fully on the charges against Hussein Bey of Prevesa and his men, and on the action of the provincial authorities in dealing with them; and I have now the honour to inclose a copy of Mr. Blakeney's Report on the subject, with a translated copy of the Memorandum referred to therein.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Prevesa, September 16, 1890.

WITH reference to the action of the authorities in connection with the various charges against Hussein Bey and his men, mentioned in the inclosed translation of a Memorandum on the subject, I beg to state that I have been supplied with the following information:—

1. As regards the murder of the lawyer Tassula, no inquiries were instituted at the time by the "Juge d'Instruction" at Prevesa, because he was afraid to do so; and for the same reason no doubt the lawyer's widow brought no accusation against Hussein Bey before the Tribunals at Janina, and thus the matter ended.

2. The case of Cleopatra Photi Terebere was not brought before the Courts of Justice.

3. Tzotzorino has been found guilty of the murder of the coffee-shop keeper and is in prison at Janina.

4. Of the abductors of the girl Eleni of Ano-Valto Senani, Salico, and Bassiho Kranioti, the first has absconded, the second, according to the evidence adduced, has been pronounced guilty of misdemeanour, and the third of having violated the girl in question, but the decision of the Court at Janina has not yet arrived.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Memorandum on Charges against Hussein Bey, of Prevesa, and his Men.

(Translation.)

THE district of Lamari is composed of Chifliks, the greater part of which belong to the well-known family of Achmet Dino, of whose heirs only one, Houssein Dino, resides here, and who it seems has been nursed with the traditions of the Phalarides of Epirus Ali Pasha of Tepelen, and whose rule is therefore to carry out abductions, rapes, acts of violence, murders, plunders, distortions, assassinations, and everything which a criminal information can conceive; the only difference between them being that the former lacks the power and the courage of the latter.

The Chifliks of Louro and Paleoforo, having each of them above 150 families, belong by right to the public, and Houssein Bey and his brothers (on their mother's side) having only the administration and the produce for which until recently they paid the legitimate tax. About the year 1883 he had hired from his brothers their shares, not for the sake of gain, but for the purpose of oppressing the wretched country-people and to satisfy his passions, which he left unbridled. In order to make them carry out all his wishes he began to take from them their olive trees and the "moussas" (lands for the common grazing of the animals belonging to the villagers) which they possessed from time immemorial and turned them into pasture lands ("kiskas"); he burnt down houses, destroyed their crops ("alonia") and everything they possessed by right of heritage. All these things he committed under the eyes of the authorities, to whom in vain the country-people appealed for protection. Owing to the carelessness of the authorities, he succeeded with armed Albanians to terrify

the inhabitants of the Chifliks of Limbokovo, Martanissas, Kastrossas, and [?], and some of them sold all they possessed and others migrated to Greece. He repeated the same but with greater vigour in the villages of Louro and Paleoforo, but the inhabitants of these two villages trusting to the laws and to the fatherly care bestowed by the Imperial Government resolved to defend their rights in the Courts of Justice. Still, as they saw that at Prevesa Houssein Dino had great influence and that the Mutessarif Abdul Refi (?) instead of punishing the injustice (which is the intention of the Imperial Government) sympathized with the criminal Houssein Dino, and sent innocent people to prison, and by opposing them in a variety of ways impeded the work of justice, they forwarded a Petition signed by all the inhabitants of Louro and Paleoforo to the Vali of Janina on the 4th April, 1885.

The then Governor-General, who justly represented the good intentions of our beloved Sovereign, ordered telegraphically that the villagers should be released, and that a stop should be put to the persecutions as well as to the meddling of the Executive, and the case be brought before the Tribunals. But the Mutessarif, who, like before, sympathized with Houssein Dino instead of affording protection in accordance with the instructions from his superiors, threatened to keep the villagers in prison unless they subscribed a document drafted in accordance with his own views favourable to Houssein Dino. The villagers once more appealed by telegraph to the Vali, who ordered their immediate release. In consequence of this peremptory order the villagers were released, but Houssein Bey continued his persecutions aided not only by the judicial organs and the ruffianly Albanians with whom he associated, but by the authorities closing their eyes to all these facts. About that time the oppressed villagers appealed for mercy to His Majesty the Sultan, the protector of the oppressed and the severe punisher of the unjust; but the telegraphist, in violation of his duty to observe secrecy, showed the telegram before sending it off to the Mutessarif, who forced the lawyer of the villagers, named Tassula Ketzano, to withdraw it, and at the same time induced Houssein Bey to bring the affair himself before the Tribunals, hoping that he would be able to influence them.

Before the trial Houssein Dino tried to induce the lawyer by offering him a sum of money to give up the defence, but failing he made use of threats; but as even with these he gained nothing he decided to put them into execution. The unfortunate lawyer foreseeing his tragic end and repeating all this, but without effect, to the then Public Prosecutor, Tefik Effendi, and to the President of the Criminal Court, Taifour Bey, found himself compelled to seek the direct help of the Governor-General, who ordered the life of the lawyer to be protected, thereby holding the local authorities responsible for any assault made against his person. A long time did not elapse before the affair began to be discussed at Court, but from the preliminary sittings it was conjectured that the result of the trial would be favourable to the villagers. It was then that Houssein Bey decided to put into execution the plan which he had meditated against the lawyer, and thus two days after the discussion, that is, on the 11th October, 1885, as the lawyer was proceeding to the coffee-shop close to his house in the middle of the market five ruffians, who were in wait for him, and led by Houssein Dino himself, as public opinion will have it, and who gave the first blows, encouraging by his own example the shrinking Houssein Tzotzorini, Berto Bossoryouklis, and the rest, but who have not been recognized, fell upon him.

Although this dreadful crime was committed in the middle of the market and under the eyes of a great many persons, nobody dared to depose anything against them (1) on account of the terror which Houssein Dino inspired and continues to inspire; and (2) on account of the carelessness and apathy of the Executive and the judicial authorities; and who, indeed, would have dared to depose anything when the police, instead of arresting the guilty who were feasting in Houssein Bey's house, imprisoned innocent people, while the criminals walked about armed and the inquiring officials refused to do their duty, and the Judges refused explicitly to institute inquiries? When the Public Prosecutor did not dare to act at all, although the wife of the murdered lawyer handed him an accusation against Houssein Bey, and when the Mutessarif, to whom the widow petitioned that justice should be done to her five children and now beggarly orphans, the case was wrongly and illegally referred to Janina without going through the formalities prescribed by law, such as inquiries, and the Judicial Council at Janina ("Heict-i-Itaoniye") either by mistake or because it took a wrong view of facts, or from want of local evidence, or for some other unknown reason acquitted them all.

The acquittance, however, emboldened immensely that criminal character, and since that time the life of the villagers became quite unbearable. Nobody dares help

the hungry widow and the orphans of the lawyer who fell a victim to his duty. Full of doubts nobody has the courage to go to the Tribunals lest some day he should fall under the hand of an assassin. His house has become a nest of ruffians. He who has murdered a father or a mother, and all persons worthy to be hanged, find refuge in his house; all those in his employ are ruffians and murderers.

The renowned ruffian Beito Bouyoupoglis having been sentenced for seven different crimes and run away from the prisons of Prevesa, was until recently the man who looked after his Chifliks, and at the same time perpetrated several acts of brigandage.

The notorious Houssein Tzotzorini, Linanis, and Saliko were until yesterday his body-guards. In consequence of the various acts of oppression, cattle-lifting, raids, violence, and rapes committed daily by Houssein Dino and his men, many of the inhabitants of Louro and Paleoforo, Martinissa, and Mazi have been compelled to migrate to Greece. This most serious affair could not indeed escape the notice of the Imperial Embassy at Athens, and having inquired into the matter, an Attaché of the Embassy was dispatched to Prevesa to ascertain the cause of this migration.

In consequence of his report and of the repeated telegrams and Petitions of the villagers the Ministry of the Interior, through the Vali of Janina, ordered strict inquiries to be made, but the Mutessarif Abdul having become related to Houssein Dino, represented matters, it appears, in his favour, and thus frustrated the good intentions of the Government.

About the month of June 1890 Houssein Dino carried off from the middle of the market a poor girl, aged 14 years, named Cleopatra Photi Tarabera, whom he violated with impunity because the authorities did not wish to disturb the peace of a friend and relative and punish his action. In vain did the Metropolitan protest; in vain the whole society became agitated; in vain was the behaviour of this monster telegraphed; in vain were all these things stated in a Petition to the present Minister of Justice Ali Riza Pasha when on his way to Janina last year. The short stay at Janina of this most just person did give him time to find out everything and punish the guilty, who was induced to leave for a while, but to return shortly after and resume his former unbridled life.

Immediately after his return, he associated himself to the sons of Souleiman Dino, of Paramithia, and cattle-lifting commenced, and the horses, mules, and oxen, and other animals belonging to the villagers which his men rob for him he sends to Paramithia to be sold there, and the animals stolen at Paramithia are sent to him at Prevesa for the same purpose.

Houssein Tzotzorini, a guard of Houssein Bey, and who took an active part in the murder of the lawyer, Tassula Katzano, murdered last year the coffee-shop keeper, Mantio Melina. As there were numerous proofs against him, he was arrested, but nobody dared to give evidence against him in the Tribunals, because the other participators in the crime walked about the streets armed, and because the then Public Prosecutor, Rasid Bey, tore up the accusation made by the relatives of the murdered man.

The other guard of Houssein Bey Dino, Salico, who temporarily looked after the Chiflik, Ano Valto having with him the runaway Senani and two others, carried off on the 20th August (o. s.) from the above-mentioned village the girl Eleni to the mountains and violated her. This having been made known to the Mutessarif in consequence of strong representations made by the Metropolitan at Prevesa, he was compelled to send zaptiehs there. The Chief of the detachment, Sali Effendi Mouliazim, succeeded to capture them in Houssein Bey's house, which he surrounded with his men. Senani, however, escaped, and formed a band, at the head of which he goes about the villages in broad daylight threatening and oppressing the country-people.

The villagers of Valto having been ill-treated, appealed to the Mutessarif for soldiers or for arms, but the Mutessarif replied that he could not supply them with arms, but he would send them troops when the zaptiehs who were sent out to collect his taxes returned.

After this negative reply seventeen villages telegraphed to His Majesty and to the Vali of Janina on the 18th May (o. s.) and gave a long account of the various acts of oppression and the crimes committed by Houssein, and as orders to inquire into the matter were sent from Janina the Mutessarif in order to mislead justice sent the affair to the Public Prosecutor to ascertain whether the signatures attached to the above telegram were those of the villagers, and, on the other hand, Houssein Bey brought from Tzamouria some armed Albanians, some of whom he sent to the villages to

terrify the inhabitants, and the others he kept at Prevesa to employ them against anybody who should dare to give evidence against him.

The Public Prosecutor was declared incompetent, and the inquiring Judge employing great pressure attempted to distort the depositions.

The villagers seeing the shameful partiality of the authorities, and having no longer any confidence in them, telegraphed to the Vali of Janina on the 8th June (o. s.) as follows:—

“ To the Governor of Janina.

“ The examination of the contents of our telegram by which we complain against Houssein Bey and his men has been entrusted to the Mutessarif of Prevesa, who is a relation of Houssein Bey. First we are threatened by the men whom Houssein Bey sends to the villages, and after that we are summoned to be examined. As our families, our children, and our animals are in the mountains, in the wilderness, for these reasons we are afraid to tell the truth. Being afraid of the Albanians who are in our villages and of those whom he has at Prevesa and of Houssein Bey himself, as well as of the Mutessarif, who is a relative, nobody dares to bring a charge or to give evidence against him. For these reasons we beg that an impartial Commission be sent hither to ascertain the truth, otherwise we shall again be compelled to appeal to His Majesty the Sultan.”

No doubt the authorities at Janina after these consecutive Petitions and telegrams from the villagers have ordered that the necessary steps should be taken, still, neither a Special Commission has been sent to inquire into the complaints nor has the Mutessarif done anything to put a stop to these evils, but, on the contrary, he is trying to suppress every voice calling for justice; consequently, it is feared that the villagers in despair should commit reprisals.

That all these facts, which are but a few of them, are true, is proved by the cypher telegram of the 18th June, 1889, which the Mutessarif was forced to send to the Vali of Janina, as it had been resolved by the Mutessarif himself, the then Cadi Helmi Effendi, the late representative of the Bishop, and the former President of the Criminal Court, Taifour Bey, to do so.

No. 78.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Salonica, September 27, 1890.

I HAD anticipated your Lordship's instructions contained in Sir P. Currie's despatch of the 12th ultimo,* relative to the outrages alleged to have been perpetrated by the Turkish authorities at Siatista and other places in Southern Macedonia, by directing Mr. Vice-Consul Shipley to inquire and report whether there is any and what foundation for the statements published in the "Daily News" of the 4th ultimo on the subject.

I have now the honour to inclose Mr. Shipley's Report, which he hopes soon to supplement with further information. I also inclose a translated extract from the "Salonica Gazette," contradicting the statements of the "Daily News" correspondent. I should, however, add that some details which have reached me from other sources, are in harmony with the information furnished by Mr. Shipley, respecting the alleged misconduct of Fethi Effendi, the Mudir of Siatista.

* Asking for information with regard to the following question asked by Mr. Schwann in the House of Commons on the 7th August:—

“ Mr. Schwann,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has had any report as to the hardships endured by the Christians of the district of Alassonia, in Southern Macedonia, ever since martial law was proclaimed there:

“ Whether his attention has been particularly drawn to the case of the seizure a few days ago of twenty Christian Notables of Siatista, who were taken bound to the town of Servia, and beaten unmercifully to compel them to reveal the names of those persons who were supposed to harbour brigands; and to the report that some gendarmes thrust a red-hot bayonet into the nose of Nicholas Doukas, a Notable, who is dying from the effects of the cruelty and violence shown to him:

“ Has he, further, any information of the seizure of some 200 persons belonging to the district of Anaselitza, who were conveyed to the town of the same name, and tortured in order to extract money:

“ And will he make inquiries into these alleged atrocities, and remonstrate, if they prove true, with the Turkish Government?

[155]

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With regard to the story that the nose of one Nicholas Ducas was bored with a red-hot bayonet by a Turkish soldier, and that the man is dying in prison, I am assured by persons who have seen him in Salonica, where he very recently arrived for the purpose of purchasing cattle, that the story is without any foundation. The man admitted that he had been apprehended and taken to Serfidje on suspicion of being in league with brigands, and stated, further, that he was shortly afterwards declared innocent and released, and that no such outrage as has been described had been committed on him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Shipley to Consul General Blunt.

Sir,

Monastir, August 26, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 12th and 17th August respectively, instructing me to obtain, for your full information, respecting the atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Turkish authorities at Siatista and other places in Southern Macedonia, an account of which has appeared in the "Daily News" of the 4th instant.

In reply, I have the honour to report to you that the main facts of the imprisonment of the Notables of Siatista are, I have ascertained, true, the Notables in question having been thrown into prison as far back as the end of last May by order of the Mudir of that place, Fethi Effendi. My informant, moreover, asserts that the reports respecting the ill-treatment of the prisoners is in substance true also. The account given by him may, nevertheless, be greatly exaggerated, and bearing in mind the very serious nature of the charges which he, as well as the "Daily News," brings against the authorities, I would beg to be allowed to defer reporting more fully upon them until I am in possession of the information which I have taken steps to obtain from the district itself, and which I hope will arrive in the course of a few days.

In the meantime, as Fethi Effendi, the Mudir of that place, has been transferred to Ventcha in the neighbouring Caza of Kozani, it is difficult to believe that the charges brought against him can be wholly without foundation. It appears, moreover, that no less than three Petitions have on different occasions been presented to the authorities by the inhabitants, praying for his removal on the grounds of extortion and abuse of authority. I may add, as partly explaining why little or nothing has transpired at Monastir on the subject of the above proceedings, that the trade of Siatista is mainly with the south, and that communication with Monastir is therefore very rare. I find, moreover, that the Christian inhabitants, when it is a question of bringing a complaint against a particular official, show an extreme reluctance to apply to a Consulate for assistance.

With regard to the proceedings at Anaselitza I have also, as in the case of Siatista, applied for details from the district itself. As regards Elassona, however, the situation would appear to be considerably exaggerated. I learn from an individual who has recently passed through that district, that the state of things appeared to be, on the whole, quiet and peaceful. If the oppression referred to by the "Daily News" existed, he could scarcely fail to have noticed it. I am the more inclined to credit his testimony as he is of Greek nationality, and has, therefore, no motive for concealing the truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 78.

Extract from the "Salonica Gazette" of September 1, 1890.

(Translation.)

WE have read in a recent number of the "Daily News" that about twenty Christian Notables of Sachista, accused of harbouring brigands, had been carried to Serfitché, and that one of them, Nicholas Ducas, even had his nose bored with a red-

hot bayonet; moreover, that 200 of the inhabitants of the Caza of Naslij had been summoned to the chief town, where their money was extorted from them.

The Sandjak of Serfitché is close to our vilayet, and we have always received from Serfitché the most gratifying accounts of the peace and tranquillity prevailing in that sandjak. Our attention was accordingly attracted and our astonishment aroused by the reports in the "Daily News" to which we refer. Knowing how largely the correspondent of that journal has been dealing in similar baseless stories, we felt sure that these reports also would prove to be slanders of the familiar type. We, however, proceeded to make inquiries into the facts.

According to the official information which we have received, the statements of the correspondent that a man's nose was bored with a red-hot bayonet, and that hundreds of persons were summoned by the authorities and subjected to extortion, are entirely false. The fact is that Nicholas Ducas and five other persons were summoned, and are being tried on the charge of harbouring brigands. Fifteen persons from the Caza of Anaselitza have also been arrested on the same charge.

Evil-disposed persons may find it convenient to use the European press for the purpose of giving to the world distorted accounts of the measures which are being taken to bring harbourers of brigands to justice, and to secure the peace of the country, but under the auspices of His Imperial Majesty truth will prevail, &c.

No. 79.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 27, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship translation of a letter addressed by the Minister of Justice and Public Worship to the Œcumenical Patriarch, and his Holiness' reply, relating to the differences which have arisen between the Sublime Porte and the Greek Patriarchate, and the investigation now proceeding by a Special Commission at the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 79.

The Turkish Minister of Justice and Public Worship to the ex-Patriarch Dionysius.

(Translation.)

3rd Sefer, 1308 (September 6, 1890).

THE Committee which has been instituted by Imperial Iradé at the Sublime Porte in order to investigate certain claims of your Patriarchate has this day begun its investigations.

As the decision of the Sublime Porte, based on these investigations, will in a short time be communicated to you, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has ordered that no pretext be given to any member of your community for indulging in improper conduct, but that you await such decision, and that at the same time you inform those whom it may concern that, in case of any such disagreeable occurrence, both the Patriarch and those with him will be considered responsible for the same.

For this reason, I expect you to do what is necessary in conformity with the above order.

(Signed) RIZA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

The ex-Patriarch Dionysius to the Turkish Minister of Justice and Public Worship.

(Translation.)

Sir,

September 8 (20), 1890.

YOUR official letter of the 6th September (o.s.) was communicated to me the day before yesterday.

[155]

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You informed me therein that the Imperial Government would, in a short time, make known to me its decision on the ecclesiastical questions, and that an Imperial Order recommends my preventing all disagreeable action which might be taken by any member of any community, holding both the Patriarch and those with him responsible in the event of this recommendation being disregarded.

In answer, I have the honour to state that when I resigned my Patriarchal functions I clearly declared that I, as Patriarch, and consequently all those who, according to the regulations, work conjointly under the presidency of the Patriarch, viz., the Holy Synod and the Mixed Council, are not only not the authors of the pitiable condition of the Church and of the more serious consequences likely to result therefrom, but protest against those who have provoked and who tolerate it, who alone must be held responsible.

However, my nation, which has always behaved prudently and in obedience to the law, perseveres with patience in this conduct, and anxiously awaits the speedy settlement of these most vital questions, which alone can put aside responsibility by establishing peace in the Church.

(Signed) DIONYSIUS.

No. 80.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, September 30, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that the result of the general election to the Skuptchina, just concluded, is as follows:—

Radicals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
Liberals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Progressists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Doubtful	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	134

This result was a foregone conclusion, but it was not expected that it would have been arrived at with such an entire absence of disturbance as I am assured in a Government quarter was the case throughout the country.

It is characteristic of the usual manner of conducting such matters in Servia that the Government are credited with much fairness for not having imprisoned a single adverse voter before the polling.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 81.

Mr. Haggard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

My Lord,

Athens, October 2, 1890.

AT his weekly reception of the Corps Diplomatique yesterday, M. Dragoumis told me that he learned from Constantinople that England and Russia were uniting their efforts to induce the Sultan to yield to the Greek Patriarch's demands, except that with reference to the Berats. I asked his Excellency what were the wishes and what had been the action of the Greek Government in the question.

He replied that they had done nothing, and had given the Patriarch no advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 82.

Sir R. Morier to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, October 4, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the inclosed summary, by Mr. Peel, of twelve letters addressed by the well-known publicist, Tatishcheff, to the "Novoe Vremya" on Bulgarian affairs.

M. Tatishcheff, who is a man of undoubted ability, and was formerly in the Russian Diplomatic Service, has on many occasions rendered himself highly disagreeable to the Russian Government by his revelations and the open character of his strictures on their policy. He has, however, never been a blind tool of the Pan Slavist party, but has taken a line of his own, and had the courage of his opinions.

In the present instance he has avowedly paid his sensational visit to Bulgaria with a view to ascertaining what were the conditions on which an understanding could be come to between Russia and the Principality.

How far he has given a correct account of his interviews with the important persons he has approached it is for the "interviewees" to decide, and grave denials of his accuracy have already been furnished by the Austrian and German Consular Agents at Sophia; but one portion of his testimony—coming, as it does, from a Russian patriot—appears to me to be of great importance. I allude to his description of the internal state of the country, and to the extraordinary material progress made by it during the last few years, and under the present régime.

Inclosure in No. 82.

*Summary of twelve Letters on Bulgarian Affairs addressed by M. Tatishcheff to the
"Novoe Vremya."*

M. TATISHCHEFF, who is a well-known writer on political affairs, and formerly a member of the Russian Diplomatic Service, lately undertook a journey to Bulgaria which attracted a good deal of attention in the foreign press. The results of this journey have just been made known in a series of letters which he has published in the "Novoe Vremya."

The object of his journey was, as an independent writer in the Russian newspapers, to get some acquaintance with the political affairs of a country which, since the interruption of relations, the Russian people had for four years only learnt through the medium of Bulgarian emigrants and the foreign press, two very unreliable sources; and, secondly, to come into contact with the Bulgarian political leaders, and to discuss calmly and dispassionately with them the causes which had led to the rupture of good relations between the two countries, with a view to removing all the misunderstandings that had arisen, and to clearing the ground for the purpose of bringing about a reconciliation.

The first three letters he devotes to a résumé of the historical events which have taken place in Bulgaria from the year 1886, when General Kaulbars and the Russian agents left the country. In the fourth and fifth letters he gives an account of the interviews he had with the foreign Representatives at Sophia.

In searching for the German Consulate, he was taken by mistake, he says, to the house of the Austrian Agent, who discussed the position of affairs, and told him that the only point of difference between Austria and Russia was the Bulgarian question, and the disagreement consisted in this: that Russia held that the election of Prince Ferdinand was illegal, while Austria, on the other hand, recognized the validity of his election, but admitted that his position in Bulgaria was not in accordance with the IIIrd Article of the Berlin Treaty. However, Prince Ferdinand, by his wise rule, had now so strong a hold on the affections of the Bulgarians that his overthrow was quite impossible.

Tatishcheff discusses the part which Austria has played in the political history of Bulgaria during the last four years, and then goes on to describe his interview with Baron Wangenheim, the German Consul-General, who, from his outward appearance, he says has more the look of a lawyer's clerk than a diplomat.

In speaking generally of the affairs of the country, Baron Wangenheim said that there was no defined political parties in Bulgaria; that there were as many leaders as parties, who had but one aim in view, and that was to get power. He cited Radoslav as an instance of one who was supposed to be a partizan of Prince Battenberg, but the real cause of whose opposition was the fact that he had no place in the Government. Like M. Burian, Baron Wangenheim spoke in the highest praise of Prince Ferdinand, who, he asserted, had much greater weight and power in the country than was generally supposed in Europe, and who would never willingly leave Bulgaria.

M. Tatishcheff then reviews at some length the political attitude of Germany, France, England, and Italy, the gist of which is that Germany has all through only given an apparent support to Russian claims; that she has in fact played a double part; she did not in any way interfere with the election of Prince Ferdinand, and had never shown the slightest dissatisfaction with regard to the interior affairs of Bulgaria, Prince Bismarck's

policy evidently being to draw Russia into taking some energetic step; and M. Tatishcheff is of the opinion that, if the retirement of Prince Bismarck brings any change in the policy of Germany, it will only be to the advantage of the present Government in Bulgaria. There was only one country which was a true friend to Russia, and that was France. The French Agent was the only one of the foreign Representatives who was not personally acquainted with Prince Ferdinand, and who had received instructions not to discuss political matters with the Bulgarian Ministers, but to confine himself to purely current affairs. England had supported Prince Ferdinand out of mere hatred to Russia, while Italy had followed the same course, but for different reasons, because she had sincerely at heart the interests of the country, and believed that Prince Ferdinand's Government was entirely in accordance with the wishes of the Bulgarians.

After visiting the foreign Representatives M. Tatishcheff next had an interview with the Minister of Justice, M. Tontcheff, with whom he found the War Minister, M. Mutkuroff, and having explained to them the objects of his journey, he propounded the following question: Did they not consider it to be the interests of their country to put an end to the strained relations existing between Russian and Bulgaria, and, if so, what means had they in view in order to attain this end? M. Tontcheff submitted that it was not the fault of Bulgaria that relations were strained, and he recapitulated the causes which had led to this unfortunate state of things. M. Mutkuroff went further than M. Tontcheff, and asserted that Russia's aim had always been to make Bulgaria serve her own purposes, she wanted to turn Bulgaria into a Russian province. Tatishcheff in his turn said that Russia had been deeply wounded by the fact that Mutkuroff had allowed the army, which was created by Russia, to be inspired with feelings of hostility towards her, and that M. Tontcheff had allowed Bulgaria to become a place of refuge for the Nihilists; and when M. Petkoff, the Vice-President of the Sobranjé, and the editor of the "Svoboda" joined them, and the conversation passed on to the criminations of the Russian press, the discussion grew so bitter that Tatishcheff was on the point of leaving the room, but was prevailed upon to stay by Tontcheff, when further talk was interrupted by the arrival of Stambouloff. "We all speak here," he said, "the Russian language, so that you might almost imagine you were in Russia." "The words are Russian, M. le Président" answered Tatishcheff, "but unfortunately they do not express Russian sentiments." Tatishcheff describes the personal appearance of Stambouloff, and was evidently much struck by the strength of will and resolution displayed in his features; he also particularly notices the fact that Stambouloff wore three rings on his hands of diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, the national colours of Bulgaria.

He then proceeds to give an account of the conversation which he had with Stambouloff alone, the other Ministers having left the room. He again explained his reasons for coming to Bulgaria, and admitted the fact that the Russians had been in error in supposing that he and his Ministers had acquired power by force and in opposition to the will of the large majority of the Bulgarian people. Their four years' tenure was a sufficient proof to the contrary. The time, however, had now arrived when Stambouloff would have to choose between coming to a reconciliation with Russia and carrying on war with her to the death.

Stambouloff listened with great attention, and seemed very much impressed. "The day of reconciliation with Russia," he said, after a few moments' silence, "will be the happiest day of my life. I said so publicly in the Sobranjé last year. But this does not depend upon me. I have done everything that I could, and would do a great deal to obtain this much-wished-for result; but I admit I hardly believe in its possibility. Too much misunderstanding, prejudice, and passion have risen up between us."

He then went into the grievances of the Bulgarians. They had been slandered before the Czar, his Government, and Russian society, in fact, throughout the whole of Russia. The Russian Diplomatic Agents had all, with the exception of Prince Cantacuzène, entirely misunderstood the importance of political events which had been accomplished under their eyes. With Kaulbars disappeared all hopes of coming to any agreement. It was impossible to confer with such a man on account of his irritability and presumption, and his ignorance of affairs. He was under the influence of Zankoff, whose sole aim was to overthrow him (Stambouloff).

Stambouloff next touched upon some of the events connected with Kaulbars' stay in Bulgaria, and mentioned the fact that in the question of holding the elections he had been willing to meet Kaulbars half-way, and to defer them for one month instead of two, which Kaulbars had demanded.

"Will that satisfy you?" asked Stambouloff.

"Do you wish to bargain with me?" answered Kaulbars, "do you take me for a merchant?"

Again, Kaulbars would not discuss the question of a candidate for the Bulgarian Throne, and after the King of Denmark had refused to allow his son to be nominated, they had waited in the hopes of getting some definite idea from Russia, but in the meantime all the Russian Representatives were withdrawn. The reason why the Prince of Mingrelia was not chosen was because they had heard a report that he was willing to sell the Principality to Russia for a sum of money. They had earnestly set about to find a Prince to insure peace and bring about the independence of their country, and it was only after the Prince Oscar of Sweden and the King of Roumania had declined their offers that, out of despair, they had elected Prince Ferdinand, who, up till now, had ruled very well, and was anxious above all things to come to an agreement with Russia.

"You are joking with me; never will Russia agree to recognize Prince Ferdinand," said Tatishcheff, who got up to go, but Stambouloff prevented him with his hand.

Stambouloff proceeded then to discuss the great aims of his political life, which he said were two: the complete independence of Bulgaria and its national unity. He described how the Congress of Berlin had placed obstacles in their way, and that in consequence they were not the real masters in their own house. They had counted on the eventual support of Russia, but she had opposed the union of Northern and Southern Bulgaria, supported the party who wished to bring in Western influence, and had caused Prince Alexander to abdicate.

Now the Bulgarians were determined to get what Russia had not succeeded in getting for them, while the withdrawal of the Russian officers from the Bulgarian army, and the fact that this had not prevented their country from pursuing a successful war against Serbia, had given them confidence in their own strength, and increased their feeling of independence. The attitude of Russia in withdrawing her Diplomatic Agents had brought them into close relations with the Western Powers, and the Bulgarians had made use of the latter's hostility to Russia to become more and more independent. "Would I not," asked Stambouloff, "have preferred the refusal of the Porte rather than her consent to grant Berats to the Macedonian Bishops?" "Because in that case," said Tatishcheff, "you would have had no hesitation in proclaiming the independence of Bulgaria." "Certainly; that was my reason," said Stambouloff.

Tatishcheff generally inferred from these remarks that Bulgaria was determined to get her independence recognized by Turkey in a friendly way, the Sultan being convinced that Bulgaria is for ever lost to Turkey, while the support of Austria and England is guaranteed through the fear lest a reconciliation might take place with Russia. "But in the event of a war," asked Tatishcheff, "what side would Bulgaria take?" "What does the partridge do when wild beasts are fighting in the forest?" answered Stambouloff. "She crouches in the ground and lies there till the battle is over; so must the Bulgarians act; they would have to be neutral. But in either case, if Austria won she would swallow Bulgaria up like an oyster, and if Russia were victorious, Bulgaria would be turned into a Russian province."

Tatishcheff denied this, and proceeded to point out the advantages which would accrue to Bulgaria in coming to an agreement with Russia. They were twofold: her independence would then be legally recognized according to the Berlin Treaty; secondly, it was Russia alone who could accomplish the unity of Bulgaria, for the territories extending to the Ægean Sea, and including Macedonia, had always been considered by the Western Powers as their special prey. "I know," said Stambouloff, "their thievish designs; but neither England nor Italy would allow Austria to advance as far as Salonica."

As, continued Tatishcheff, the independence of Bulgaria depended entirely upon Russia, and without Russia the idea of unity was a myth, Stambouloff must see that the wisest policy of his Government was to become reconciled to Russia as quickly as possible. But reparation would have to be made for the offences of the past, and guarantees would have to be offered that the interests of the Orthodox Church would be maintained.

What Russia wanted in the first place was reciprocity. It was this that Zankoff and his friends wished to establish; up to the present Russia had done everything for the Bulgarians, and had asked for nothing in return. It was hardly to be expected that in the event of a war Bulgaria should content herself with offering the Russian forces only hay and straw. In the second place, Prince Ferdinand must go, his election was illegal; he was a Catholic and an Austrian, and so naturally subject to Austrian influence. In a war with Russia there was nothing to hinder him from disowning Stambouloff and his friends, and setting up in their place Swiloff, Grekoff, Natchevitch, and Petroff, and joining arms with the Austrians.

The conversation then finished, the general impression left on Tatishcheff's mind being that Stambouloff, though in fault, was sincere, that he had invited Prince Ferdinand in order to do his country a service, and that he would compel him to leave if he saw that

the interests of his country required this step. Before leaving, however, Mutkuroff and Tontcheff, who were in the adjoining room, begged to state that what Stambouloff had said was the expression of their own opinions.

After his interview with Stambouloff, Tatishcheff employed the second day of his stay at Sophia in examining the internal affairs of Bulgaria, and concludes his letters by reporting the results of his investigations, which, according to his account, he gathered from the most trustworthy sources. He maintains that they prove that the country and its inhabitants are in the most flourishing condition, in spite of the assertions of the Russian newspaper correspondents and the Bulgarian emigrants, who are constantly representing them as being in a state of anarchy and ruin.

Political troubles, he says, have only acted on the surface, and have not disturbed industrial occupations, and already much has been done to develop the productive resources of the country. He draws particular attention to the fact that there are now existing in Bulgaria 13 Schools of Agriculture, 78 Land Banks, with a capital of 16,000,000 fr., while a sum of 50,000 fr. is yearly being spent in supporting a system by which professors of agriculture may be enabled to give lectures in the provinces, and efforts have been made towards the distribution of seed and unreclaimed land. Less progress has been made in commerce and industry, but even here there is a certain success to boast of, for in the past year seven Commercial Companies, twelve Savings Banks, and a Shipping Company have been formed, while arrangements have been made towards the establishment of a Fire Insurance Association; besides this, the railway which has been constructed from Jamboli to Bourgas now enables the products of Southern Bulgaria to find their way to the sea, and a large harbour at Bourgas is in the course of construction.

In turning to what has been effected as regards education, he notices that there are now 3,844 elementary schools, with a staff of 5,000 teachers, and an attendance list of 172,000 children, seven gymnasiums, four higher schools for women, besides the University and the Military School at Sophia, while 134 students are maintained at the cost of the State in foreign Universities.

The finances, too, of the country are in a satisfactory state, although the expenses exceed the receipts, but this is explained by the fact that more lately has been expended on the army and public works.

From all this he infers that nothing more could be desired were it not that there exists the most arbitrary form of government, which infringes all the Constitutional rights and privileges of the people. Stambouloff governs in the position of a Dictator, and he and his friends trouble themselves very little about the laws, supported as they are by a large majority in the *Sobranjé*. Tatishcheff then put the question: "Is it not true that there is a reign of terror in Bulgaria, and that, with the help of a small minority, the Government is in the hands of a small band of usurpers?" Which he answers by saying that such an assertion is completely false, and could only be made in the *Strastnoi Boulevard*, *i.e.*, the street where the "Moscow Gazette" is published, or by those who receive all their accounts from the emigrants, and that one single day in Bulgaria is quite sufficient to convince any one of the contrary, and to see that the Government is supported by an immense majority.

Tatishcheff then describes the political parties in Bulgaria, and observes that their differences are of a purely local character, with a view to getting into their hands the direction of affairs; that Russia does not come into their consideration at all, not, however, as he is careful to point out, that the Bulgarians are unmindful of all that Russia has done for them, but they love their country more, and Stambouloff is shrewd enough to take advantage of this feeling to persuade them that what he aims at is the unity and independence of Bulgaria; and they pardon everything when they reflect upon the union of Northern and Southern Bulgaria, and the extension of the influence of their Church in Macedonia.

(Signed) ARTHUR PEEL.

No. 83. |

Mr. Haggard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 13.)

My Lord,

Athens, October 6, 1890.

THE "Official Gazette" of the 22nd September (4th October) publishes a Royal Decree sanctioning, in accordance with law, the Rules under which a Society styled "The Macedonian Brotherhood on behalf of the Poor" is established in Athens.



In accordance with Rule 1, the object of the Society is to assist Macedonians who are indigent and unable to work.

Rule 2 lays down that the Society will, by material and moral means, encourage indigent Macedonians by gifts of money and books to poor pupils of both sexes, and by the establishment of night schools.

Rules 3 and 4 refer to membership, ordinary and honorary. The former must be Macedonians suited to promote the object of the Society; the latter includes persons distinguished by their condition and patriotism. Corresponding members are also to be admitted, and by Rule 14 these latter must undertake and execute with zeal the work with which they may be charged by the Society.

Members, according to the class to which they belong, are to contribute from 4 to 6 drachmas a-year. It is possible that the subscription may somewhat interfere with the success of this patriotic Society.

The title of the Society would appear to be somewhat misleading, as the tenour of the whole document shows that the Society aims rather at political objects than at the assistance of indigent Macedonians.

Rule 52 lays down that the day on which the Society will celebrate its anniversary is to be that of the Resurrection of our Lord.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. D. HAGGARD.

No. 84.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 14, 1890.

I HAVE received a copy of the despatch addressed to your Excellency by Mr. Consul-General Blunt on the 26th ultimo respecting the outrages alleged to have been perpetrated by Hussein Bey of Prevesa; and I shall be glad to know whether you have been able to take any action in the sense suggested therein.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 85.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 9, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, with reference to my despatch of the 17th September, 1888,* a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Scutari, describing the measures taken by the Montenegrin Government with a view to the exclusion of the Catholic Albanian clans of Skrelli and Klementi from the lands hitherto owned by them in the Dulcigno district.

Mr. Lamb points out that should the Montenegrin Government succeed in ejecting these Albanians, an injustice will have been committed which was certainly not contemplated by the Powers who brought about the Dulcigno cession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Vice-Consul Lamb to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Scutari, September 25, 1890.

TWO years ago (viz., in my despatch of the 2nd September, 1888), I had occasion to draw your Excellency's attention to the position of the two Catholic clans of Skrelli and Klementi in regard to their winter pasturages in the lowlands, and alluded to the desire, which the Montenegrin Government had already begun to

* See "Turkey No. 3 (1889)," p. 188, No. 285.

manifest, of excluding these people from that portion of their lands which lies within the ceded district of Dulcigno.

The inhabitants of the poorer districts of Montenegro, who have to struggle against the yearly increasing difficulty of subsisting upon the produce of their arid hills, have long cast envious glances upon the relatively fertile plain of the Boyana, and grudge to see it occupied by Albanians. The latter have for some years past complained that vexatious Regulations were continually being introduced by the authorities of Dulcigno for the apparent purpose of harassing and disgusting them; but, their lowland holdings being absolutely indispensable to them, they have necessarily submitted. Presumably, therefore, the Montenegrin Government now finds itself compelled, by the increasing insistence of its own subjects, to adopt more active measures to eject them.

As the time again approached for their descent into winter quarters, the Governor of Dulcigno informed the tribesmen that their entry into his district would be permitted only on certain conditions, which were briefly, that they should elect permanent domicile in Montenegro, adopt the Montenegrin head-dress (Kepitza), and accept military service as Montenegrin subjects, or, in lieu of service, pay a yearly exemption tax of six florins per (male) head. Should these conditions not be accepted, the Montenegrin Government would recognize their ownership of those lands to which they could establish a documentary title, but would not permit them to cross the frontier with their cattle, and would regard as State property all such lands as to the legal ownership of which no written evidence was forthcoming.

Out of some 200 families, whose winter quarters lie in the Dulcigno district, only one is known to me as holding any kind of title-deeds for the land in its possession. These lands were for the most part acquired from thirty to forty years ago by purchase from the Mussulman Beys of Scutari and Dulcigno, who themselves, generally, had no title beyond possession and local tradition. Nevertheless, their right to their holdings has remained undisputed down to the present time, being regarded as perfectly satisfactory by the Turkish Government, and recognized hitherto by the Montenegrins themselves, who for ten years have collected revenue from the mountaineers without a hint that they disputed the legality of their tenure.

The mountaineers have presented a formal protest to the Ottoman authorities, and the Bairaktar of Skrelli proceeded to Dulcigno to plead their cause with the Voivoda, from whom he obtained the concession that a sufficient number might be allowed to pass the frontier to gather in the standing crops of maize, but it was insisted that they should leave their cattle behind, and regard this permission as only temporary, pending the receipt of further instructions from the Prince.

How far the Ottoman Government will be able, or will endeavour, to protect the interests of its subjects I cannot, of course, foretell, but, judging from the example of the Dulcignote Mussulmans, their chances of obtaining effective support in that quarter would seem to be but small. Nevertheless, I venture to submit that if the Montenegrins succeed in ejecting these people from their lands, an act of gross injustice will have been performed, which was not at all contemplated by the Powers which brought about the Dulcigno Arrangement of 1880. In his despatch to Mr. Goschen, dated the 2nd October, 1880, recapitulating all that had taken place in regard to that Arrangement, Earl Granville remarks that one of its chief advantages "is that it avoids interfering with the organization of the mountain clans"—a statement scarcely consistent with a transfer of about one-third of the Skrelli clan to Montenegrin nationality. It was obviously intended that these clansmen should retain their Ottoman domicile, while I cannot suppose that it was desired to deprive them of half their possessions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

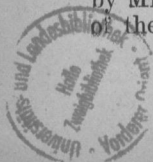
No. 86.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 11, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Dragoman Stavrides, in which he reports the Resolutions passed by the Council of the Greek Patriarchate to inform the Porte of their dissolution, and to invite the



authorities of the Orthodox Greek Church to suspend all religious ceremonies, and to close the churches in their dioceses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Memorandum by Mr. Stavrides.

DANS le Conseil qui a été tenu hier au Patriarcat Grec, il a été décidé ce qui suit:—

1. Que la Porte sera verbalement informée que vu la démission du Patriarche et de la continuation indéfinie de l'état anormal des affaires de l'Église, le Conseil se retire de la direction des affaires et se dissout.

2. Que le Synode informera toutes les Églises Orthodoxes de la condition déplorable de l'Église d'Orient.

3. Que les titulaires de tous les diocèses Orthodoxes qui se trouvent dans l'Empire seront informés de la décision prise, et seront invités à agir en conformité, en d'autres mots, à suspendre toute cérémonie religieuse et à fermer les églises.

Ces Résolutions m'ont paru trop sérieuses et de nature à avoir de graves conséquences. C'est pourquoi je m'empresse de vous en faire part avec prière de les porter à la connaissance de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur.

Constantinople, le 9 Octobre, 1890.

(Translation.)

AT the Council which was held yesterday at the Greek Patriarchate, the following decisions were come to:—

1. That the Porte be verbally informed that, in view of the resignation of the Patriarch and of the indefinite prolongation of the abnormal condition of the affairs of the Church, the Council retires from the direction of affairs, and is dissolved.

2. That the Synod inform all the Orthodox Churches of the deplorable condition of the Eastern Church.

3. That the clergy of all the Orthodox dioceses in the Empire be informed of the decision taken, and be invited to act in conformity therewith; in other words, to suspend all religious ceremonies and to close the churches.

These resolutions appeared to me most serious, and of a nature likely to entail grave consequences. I hasten, therefore, to communicate them to you, with the request that you will bring them to the knowledge of his Excellency the Ambassador.

Constantinople, October 9, 1890.

No. 87.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, October 18, 1890.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the state of affairs on the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, I have now the honour to report that, at the present moment, tranquillity appears to prevail.

The season is advancing; winter is coming on, during which time the frontier is generally pretty quiet, as, owing to the difficulty of communication, the populations on either side are not brought much into contact with each other.

During the time that I was absent on leave four Albanians were killed and then horribly mutilated by Montenegrins at a place called Hassanatch, between Pepice and Velipolje. The Montenegrin Government have arrested and examined several men, but declare that they are unable to discover the murderers. I have heard it said, however, that the latter are in reality well known, but that the Government do not care to arrest them.

The troubles are, however, I think, pretty well over for the present; for not only is there the question of the season, but also, I imagine, the Prince would not wish to do anything just now to offend the Sultan, as to cause the latter annoyance at this

[155]

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moment would be an unhandsome return for the very cordial reception accorded to the Duchess of Leuchtenberg at Constantinople.

The Turkish Minister informs me that, taking advantage of these more friendly relations, he has succeeded at last in getting the Montenegrin Government to sanction the appointment of a Turkish Consul at Podgoritza. The post has been vacant now for about eighteen months.

Again, the Montenegrin Government have consented that a Mixed Commission should deal with the question of the rents due to the Gussinje land-owners (see my despatch of the 17th July) who have property situated in Montenegro; and another Mixed Commission is engaged on the delimitation of the pastures lying between Sekular and Rugovi. Tewfik Bey has, however, very properly insisted that the final settlement of the latter question should depend upon some arrangement being come to by the Gussinje Commission; and that, till the claims for rent are settled one way or another, the Montenegrins should not be allowed to take possession of the lands they now claim from the people of Rugovi.

The Gussinje Commission will meet at Cetinje, Turkey being probably represented by Tahir Pasha, who is now employed on the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 88.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 15, 1890.

WITH reference to previous correspondence relating to the question of the ecclesiastical privileges in dispute between the Ottoman Government and the Greek Œcumenical Patriarchate, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of the official "teskére," drawn up after a sitting of the Council of Ministers and issued by the Grand Vizier on the 13th, reaching the Patriarchate on the 14th, giving the decision of the Imperial Government on the several points in dispute. The concessions contained in this document should be of a nature to satisfy the Greek Patriarchate, and to clearly render no longer necessary the action reported by Mr. Stavrides as imminent, in conformity with the Resolutions of the Council of the Greek Patriarchate to exert pressure on the Turkish Government by the closing of the churches in the capital and the provinces that are dependent upon the Phanar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Claims of the Greek Patriarchate and the Decision of the Imperial Government on the Ecclesiastical Privileges.

(Translation.)

First Claim.—That since questions of marriage and divorce belong to the Patriarchate, the sentences given by the latter in alimony and dowry cases which spring from marriage shall be executed, as in the past, by the judicial authorities.

Decision.—Cases of claim for alimony and dowry springing from marriage and divorce have always been settled by the Patriarchate at Constantinople, and by the Metropolitans in the provinces. This ancient custom shall also be respected in the future, and the decisions or sentences for fixing the amount of alimony to be paid, given either by the Patriarchate or the Metropolitans, shall be put in force, as in the past, by the executive authority, as long as the person condemned to pay the pension raises no objection.

If, however, at the time of execution such persons should object to the amount fixed, and declare their inability to pay the same, the question which forms the principal object of the litigation, the examination of such claim shall in future be referred to the Patriarchate.

The final decisions of the Patriarchate on the subject, either altering or confirming their previous decision, shall be put in force by the executive authority in spite of any further claim or objection that may be lodged, and action shall be taken exactly as in the case of any other debtor.

The same procedure shall be followed in dowry cases, which shall be tried according to Article 3 of the Regulations on the powers of the "Mixed Council."

Instructions will consequently be sent to the ordinary Courts to conform to this rule. The "Chéri" Courts shall also be informed.

Second Claim.—Since the act of making a will is a religious act, wills should be drawn up in conformity with religious laws, and cases arising therefrom should be tried on the basis of these same laws by the Patriarchal and Metropolitan Councils.

Decision.—As the result of information obtained, it is found that there exists no uniform rule on the subject. Thus, in some countries if a person has less than four children, he can bequeath the half of his fortune to third parties; if he has four or more, he can dispose of the third. On the same system, in Germany a man can dispose of three-fourths of his fortune; in Austria, of the half. In France and Roumania, a man who has one child can dispose of half; if he has two, of a third; and if he has three or more, of the fourth. In short, in every country the laws of wills are subject to the laws of the State. Similarly in Turkey, a man can dispose of only a third of his property for charitable works. Consequently, this principle cannot be modified. Nevertheless, the power of bequeathing to one's heirs, or to third parties, more than a third of one's movable property and immovable "mulk," is exercised in conformity with the usage laid down by the official Ordinances issued in 1278 on the subject of successions of Christians, and the 12th Article of the "Patriarchal Regulations."

The restriction "after verification and approval" contained in these official Ordinances has been inserted in order to take note of the recognition by the Patriarch, the Metropolitan, the Bishop, or their Representatives, of the validity of the tenour of the act. As for the procedure in vogue for the trial of will cases, such cases, if they belong to successions which, for reasons assigned, must be inventoried by the "Chéri," are tried by the "Chéri" Courts; if they relate to the "Evkaf" laws, the land laws, or other civil laws, they are tried by the competent Tribunals. In these two cases, wills having to do with movable property, immovable "mulks," and "Mukataali Evkaf," drawn up according to custom, registered and authenticated by the Patriarchate or Metropolitans, shall be recognized as valid by all the Tribunals. In case the heirs of the testator should be of age and he should have made a bequest for charitable works, the cases or lawsuits which may result therefrom shall be tried by the Patriarchate. This procedure shall be equally respected in the future.

Third Claim.—The supervision and administration of private schools being confided to the spiritual chiefs, the choice and nomination of the professors and school-mistresses, as well as the drawing up of the programmes, are within the powers of the Councils depending on these chiefs. Consequently, the orders of the Imperial Government concerning these schools ought to be communicated through the same spiritual chiefs, and any information required should be obtained through the same channels.

Decision.—Since the Imperial Government has the right to control the programmes of private schools, and to see whether the professors are provided with diplomas, and since the supervision and administration of Greek schools belong to the Patriarchate and the Metropolitans, the inspectors of public instruction and, in the provinces where they do not exist, the Directors of public instruction shall have to see after the diplomas of the professors and the school programmes.

Thus, they will have to examine the diplomas with which the professors ought to be provided, or the certificates of ability and good character given by the Patriarchate or the Metropolitans. If among these professors there should be found any without diplomas or certificates, and if, on inspection, it is found that matter outside the approved programmes is being taught, the Minister of Public Instruction at Constantinople and the local authorities in the provinces shall put themselves in communication with the Patriarchate or the Metropolitans, as the case may be, and shall have the programmes rectified, and the professors without such certificates replaced by others.

Fourth Claim.—This claim refers to the taking of the oath by priests, and the exceptional procedure to be followed for their arrest and trial in penal matters.

Decision.—Ever since the Code on Criminal Procedure came into vogue, the immunity of the clergy, summoned to give evidence in criminal matters, from taking the oath like ordinary laymen, constitutes a serious impediment to the course of justice, and, in view of the necessity of speedy dispatch in judicial affairs, it shall be proceeded in accordance with the legal enactment, issued for administering the oath to

priests in civil or criminal cases, according to their religion, before the Patriarchate or the Metropolitanate to which they belong.

As for their arrest and trial, they shall be detained, in cases of debt, as in the past, at the Patriarchate or at their Metropolitanates.

As regards their interrogatory and sending forward for trial before the ordinary Tribunals, monks and priests in penal cases shall be treated as follows:—

Summonses issued by examining magistrates and the Tribunals shall be notified to them—at Constantinople through the Patriarchate, and in the provinces through the Metropolitanates and the Bishops, who immediately, on receipt of them, shall be obliged to hand over the priests accused to the authorities. If they fail to do so, or if the priest summoned does not appear, the ordinary legal action shall be taken to make him appear. Until proved guilty and condemned, priests shall not be detained in the ordinary prisons, but shall be kept in a room in the Government buildings, suitable to their rank, that is, in a place reserved for people of distinction. If his guilt is recognized, and if it is found that the case is one of transgression or misdemeanour, since in such cases his sacerdotal character cannot be taken away from the condemned, he shall undergo his imprisonment at the Patriarchate or at his Metropolitanate.

If he is under a criminal accusation, he shall be detained and interrogated in a special room in the Government buildings until his crime is proved and judgment pronounced; after which he shall be deprived of his sacerdotal character, and he shall go through his sentence in the ordinary prison.

In case where, in consequence of disorder, a state of siege is proclaimed in any part of the Empire, the authors of the crimes committed in such district, being amenable to courts-martial, without any distinction, until the causes for such régime shall have disappeared, these courts-martial shall have to confirm themselves as regards arresting and imprisoning monks and priests to the rule indicated above.

No. 89.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 20, 1890.

ON the 27th ultimo, with my despatch of same date, I had the honour to forward to your Lordship English translations of various documents relating to the conflict between the Œcumenical Patriarchate on the question of its ancient privileges and the Sublime Porte.

I subsequently sent your Lordship, with my despatch of the 11th instant, a translation of certain Resolutions passed at the Phanar, from which it was evident that it was in contemplation to close the churches to public worship should the Patriarchal demands be refused by the Sublime Porte.

On Sunday, the 12th instant, the Council of Ministers sat at the Porte and prepared a formal "teskéré" defining and embodying all the privileges which were to be enjoyed in future by the Eastern Church in the Ottoman Empire. This "teskéré," prepared on the 13th, reached the Patriarchate on Tuesday, the 14th instant, and a translation of it accompanies my despatch to your Lordship of the 15th instant.

Many persons considered the conflict as closed by these concessions of the Ottoman Government, or at any rate imagined that the ground had been broken for a basis supplying a favourable opportunity for a completely satisfactory arrangement.

There was therefore general surprise when the outside world learnt that orders had been issued on the 15th from the Œcumenical Patriarchate at Constantinople closing all places under its jurisdiction to public worship, the administrations of the Liturgy and of the Sacraments.

The churches have been actually closed since Wednesday, the 16th, and have continued so on Sunday, the 19th, and since.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 90.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, October 27, 1890.

FROM my previous reports, your Lordship will have seen both the nature of the Patriarchal Greek conflict with the Ottoman Government, and the form it had assumed at the last moment when the Porte had formulated and inclosed to the Ecumenical Patriarch the large concessions it was willing to make.

There is up to this moment no report of any breach of the peace anywhere.

No. 91.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(Telegraphic.)

Canea, Crete, November 1, 1890.

THE Greek Orthodox churches have been closed in consequence of orders received yesterday from the Patriarch.

A notice has just been issued by the Vali, stating that, as is well known, the small incident which has induced the Patriarch to adopt that measure is on the point of being settled amicably, and that the inhabitants of Crete are, as hitherto, free to perform their religious service, perfect religious liberty having been enjoyed in the Empire at all times.

No. 92.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, November 5, 1890, 6 P.M.

I SHALL be glad to receive a Report on the present position of the quarrel between the Greek Patriarch and the Porte.

What do you hear from the Grand Vizier on the subject?

No. 93.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

My Lord,

Sophia, October 31, 1890.

AFTER touching on the question of the proposed harbour works at Bourgas, M. Stambouloff referred to the sale of Baron Hirsch's Oriental railways.

He seemed to be of opinion that the new Company must not only lower very considerably the freight rates levied by Baron Hirsch, to the serious detriment of the agricultural interests of the country, but that they must also agree to the Bulgarian Government having the right to supervise and control the tariffs within their own territory. If the new Company were ready to come to an amicable understanding on some such bases as he had mentioned all serious difficulties would be removed for the moment, for he was not anxious to raise factious objections, or to waste money in constructing another line. At the same time, he was resolved to protect the agricultural and commercial interests of the country from a repetition of the loss inflicted by Baron Hirsch's late exorbitant tariffs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 94.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 14.)

Sir,

Salonica, November 3, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Greek Archbishop of Salonica issued yesterday evening a Circular letter to the Bishops and parish priests

in his diocese directing them, by order of the Œcumenical Patriarch to close the churches, and I now learn that the churches in the other dioceses in Macedonia have also been closed.

I am assured that the Archbishop of Salonica considers this order of the Patriarch unadvisable and of doubtful expediency; he thinks it will involve the Eastern Church in further serious difficulties with the Porte, and develop changes and chances likely to advance the Bulgarian and Roman Catholic "Uniate" Church movements in Macedonia.

As some indication of his dislike of the measure in question, I may state that while the other Archbishops in the Vilayet of Salonica have closed the churches in their respective dioceses immediately the Patriarch's order reached them—on or about the 22nd of last month—he demurred on the ground that the order was not sufficiently explicit and definite; and it was only yesterday evening, after the receipt of a peremptory telegram from the Patriarchate, that he decided to obey.

He has, however, authorized his clergy to continue to celebrate marriages and baptisms in private houses, and to officiate at burials without their canonicals.

So far this crisis in the affairs of the Greek Patriarchate of Constantinople does not appear to cause any serious excitement or perturbation in the Greek community in Macedonia; and I should add that from all I hear from well-informed sources the people have no great sympathy with the action of the Patriarch, as they understand that his efforts are in fact directed against the establishment of the Bulgarian National Church in Macedonia, which they generally accept as a *fait accompli*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 95.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 6, 1890.

WITH regard to your Lordship's telegraphic inquiries, dated yesterday evening, on the subject of the present position of the Patriarchal quarrel, I have the honour to report what follows.

It is as yet quite impossible for an outsider to form any correct opinion of the motives which induced the Patriarchal Council—consisting of ecclesiastical and lay members, and directing affairs since the resignation of his Beatitude Dionysios V—to adopt this strange new plan of campaign, by which the members of the Greek Church in this capital are deprived of the advantages derived from being able to assist at public worship.

The order to that effect was issued by the above-named Patriarchal Council on the 15th October (N.S.), as reported by me in my despatch of the 20th October.

At first, however, it was only enforced in the churches situated in twenty Eparchies or Dioceses out of forty to which it had been addressed, but I hear that the places of worship in the Island of Crete and those in the town of Salonica have been closed within the last few days.

It does not appear that this measure has so far produced any unusual excitement or disturbance anywhere; in some places many of the people are said to have supposed that it was the Turks who were thus forcibly interfering with the free exercise of their religion. There appear to have been a few instances in which the people have compelled their priests to open their churches, and thus enable them to pray in them, and a case of this kind occurred here in the suburb of Galata, where the natives of Cephalonia obtained forcible admission to their church on the feast of the patron saint of that island, and, having recited their prayers, withdrew quietly from the church, which was closed again.

The Turkish police does not appear to have interfered anywhere, and indeed the Grand Vizier and his colleagues maintain that they are by no means concerned in this quarrel; that they have restored on the 13th October all the important privileges which the Patriarchate enjoyed, and they have gone in this as far as they could possibly go; that they are prepared to explain and, to a certain extent, complete the provisions of the Decree issued on that day, and that the measure affecting public worship adopted by the Patriarchal Council is one of quite an internal nature, which does not in any way regard or concern the Turks or their Government, but purely and entirely the members of the Eastern Greek Church,

As to interfering with the Bulgarian Church, this the Porte positively declines to do.

The Grand Vizier takes his stand on the Imperial Firman issued by Abdul Aziz on the 8th Zilhidjé, 1286 (10th (22nd) March, 1870), by which the Exarchate was constituted, and, when asked by the Greeks to pledge the Imperial Government not to issue any more Berats to Bulgarian Bishops in future, His Highness Kiamil Pasha has replied that this would be a distinct violation of the last paragraph of Article 9 of the above-quoted Firman, and I hear that this, his answer, has received the Sultan's approbation.

It would appear difficult for any large body constituting a Christian Church to allow itself to be deprived of public worship by the act of their own Superior Council, but it is impossible to say how long this state may last or how it will end. I shall not fail to keep your Lordship informed of whatever I hear or of what may come under my observation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 96.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 8, 1890.

YESTERDAY being the Festival of St. Demetrius, which is celebrated in the Eastern Church with considerable solemnity, and with the attendance of larger congregations than usual, it might have been feared that the closing of the churches might have given occasion to some cause for disturbance, but nothing of the kind appears to have happened anywhere.

I have even been told, although I have not been able to test the accuracy of this statement, that one of the churches in the suburbs of Constantinople had to be opened for worship, and thus far the orders of the Patriarchate had to be disobeyed on that day in deference to the pressing demands of the congregation.

From all I hear, the description given your Lordship from Salonica by Mr. Consul-General Blunt in his despatch of the 3rd instant, particularly in the last portion of it, appears to correspond to the state of things existing in many other portions of this country, not only in Macedonia.

Indeed, the opinion appears to be gaining ground that the whole of this movement is directed from Constantinople.

The Grand Vizier, to whom I have addressed inquiries this morning, says he is confident that it cannot last very much longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 97.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord,

Sophia, November 9, 1890.

THE members of the Holy Synod now sitting in session in this capital, and comprising the Metropolitans of Roustchouk, Varna, Wratza, and Samakoff, presented an Address to the Prince yesterday, copy of which, as also of His Royal Highness' reply, I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship.

They were received in solemn audience by Prince Ferdinand in such an official manner as to publicly proclaim the reconciliation that has taken place between them and the Bulgarian Government.

For upwards of four years, as your Lordship is aware, the Holy Synod has been in conflict with the Government, and in opposition both to M. Stambouloff and to the present régime. Prayers were forbidden to be said in many of the churches for His Royal Highness, and some of the more important Archbishops in the country were left vacant owing to the dissensions between the Synod and the Government. That this lamentable state of things has at length come to an end is due primarily to M. Stambouloff's success in obtaining Berats for the Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia, and in no slight degree also to the tact displayed by His Royal Highness and

M. Stambouloff in dealing with the recalcitrant Metropolitans during the last twelve months. The friendly relations now happily established can scarcely fail to add considerably to the popularity and stability of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Speech of Mgr. Grégoire.

Monseigneur,

LE Saint Synode, investi de la divine mission de s'occuper du bien de la Sainte Église Orthodoxe Bulgare, considère comme un devoir, en inaugurant ses séances dans la capitale Princière, de se présenter devant votre Altesse Royale et de lui offrir ses hommages et ses vœux.

Le Saint Synode profite de cette circonstance pour exprimer sa conviction profonde que votre Altesse Royale, ainsi que son Gouvernement, daigneront lui apporter le concours nécessaire pour décider des questions importantes qui concernent la réglementation de notre Église, questions qui, depuis nombre d'années, sont restées en suspens.

Animé de cet espoir le Saint Synode prie le Dieu Tout-Puissant d'accorder à votre Altesse Royale santé et longue vie.

(Translation.)

Monseigneur,

THE Holy Synod, invested with the divine mission of protecting the welfare of the Holy Orthodox Bulgarian Church, considers it a duty, in commencing its sittings in the capital of the Principality, to present itself before your Royal Highness and to offer you its homage and good wishes.

The Holy Synod takes advantage of this opportunity to express its profound conviction that your Royal Highness, as well as your Government, will deign to afford it the necessary assistance to decide important questions concerning the Government of our Church, questions which for a number of years past have remained in suspense.

Inspired by this hope, the Holy Synod prays Almighty God to accord to your Royal Highness health and long life.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Reply of Prince Ferdinand.

Monseigneur,

NOUS sommes heureux de voir dans notre capitale les membres du Très Saint Synode réunis dans le but de travailler au maintien et au perfectionnement des lois de la Sainte Église Orthodoxe Bulgare.

Nous avons eu toujours à cœur de favoriser la bonne direction et l'ordre des affaires de notre Église Nationale, et nous ferons, avec notre Gouvernement, tout ce qui dépendra de nous pour atteindre ce but.

Les hommages et les vœux que vous nous exprimez au nom du Saint Synode Bulgare nous touchent profondément. Nous y voyons une garantie de l'aide que les Saints Pères de l'Église Bulgare nous apporteront dans les efforts que nous consacrons journellement au bien-être et au progrès de notre peuple bien aimé.

(Translation.)

Monseigneur,

WE are glad to see in our capital the members of the Most Holy Synod met together with the object of working for the maintenance and improvement of the laws of the Holy Orthodox Bulgarian Church.

We have always been anxious to support good government and order in the affairs of our National Church, and we shall, in concert with our Government, do everything which depends on us in order to attain this object.

The homage and the good wishes which you express in the name of the Holy Bulgarian Synod touch us profoundly. We see in them a guarantee of the assistance which the Holy Fathers of the Bulgarian Church will afford us in the efforts which we shall daily devote to the well-being and progress of our beloved people.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

My Lord,

Salonica, November 9, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th September, in answer to Sir Philip Currie's despatch of the 12th August last, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a further Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Shipley relative to the outrages alleged to have been perpetrated by the Turkish authorities in Sciatista and other districts in Southern Macedonia.

It is evident from the information personally procured by careful inquiries on the spot by Mr. Shipley, that Fethi Effendi, late Mudir of Sciatista, cruelly ill-treated a number of Christians in that district, and that, although the Kaïmakam of Lapsista, the Mudir's immediate superior, appears to have taken prompt action in the matter, the Vali of Monastir, Faik Pasha, has inflicted no punishment on the accused, but merely transferred him in the same capacity to Diskata, a place in the immediate vicinity of the Greek frontier, and which is entirely inhabited by Christians.

The appointment, especially at the present moment, of a man of such bad antecedents to this post, will, I fear, be resented as an outrage by the Greeks on both sides of the frontier.

It is now a general complaint on the part of all classes of the inhabitants, Turks and Christians, that when they bring grave charges against their Kaïmakams and Mudirs, or other subordinate officials, no sustained serious action is taken by the Provincial Administration or by the Porte to fully inquire into and adequately deal with them; the charges are either hushed up, or, as is more frequently the case, the incriminated official is transferred to some other district in the province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Vice-Consul Shipley to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Monastir, October 27, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th August last on the subject of the atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Turkish authorities at Sciatista and other places in Southern Macedonia, I have the honour to report to you that, in view of the difficulty of obtaining full and accurate information on the subject at Monastir, I decided to visit the district in question in person, which I accordingly did in the early part of September last, with the result which I have now the honour to lay before you. I may perhaps be allowed to add that I had the less hesitation in adopting the above course, as an opportunity presented itself of performing the journey as far as Sciatista, in company with my Servian and Greek colleagues, Messrs. Body and Fontanas, the latter gentlemen having previously projected a visit to Blatzi, a small town some few hours further on.

With regard to Fethi Effendi, the late Mudir of Sciatista, the result of my inquiries would, I regret to say, lead me to believe that the charges, with the exception of the bayonet incident, are substantially true. It appears that on the 24th and 25th May last, Fethi Effendi, having previously procured a reinforcement of soldiers from Lapsista, the Administrative centre of his district, caused some fifty of the inhabitants of Sciatista to be arrested in batches of four and five on the charge, ostensibly, of connivance with brigandage, and, instead of confining them in the ordinary prison, had them conveyed to a monastery called Tcherushina, about half-an-hour's distance from the town. Here they were subjected to further indignities, some fifteen of them undergoing personal ill-treatment by the express order of Fethi Effendi himself, the remainder being saved by the intercession of the "Igoumen," or Prior of the monastery. The majority of the prisoners were, it appears, then liberated, one or two only, and not twenty, as stated in the "Daily News," being sent bound to Serfidjé. The report, I should add, that a similar outrage had also occurred at the latter place, I found to be devoid of foundation.

Far worse treatment, however, than the above, and for which I could find no justification whatever, was undergone by a certain Nicholas Despos, a leather-dresser, of Sciatista. This individual, some few days after the occurrences above related, was

seized by order of Fethi Effendi, and conveyed to a private house, which, it appears, was occasionally occupied by the latter. Thence, my informants stated, he was taken at an early hour in the morning of the 5th or the 6th June last, under a guard of soldiers, to an open place outside the town, and subjected to so severe a beating as to have entirely lost consciousness, in which state, it appears, he was taken back again to the house from which he had been brought, and left there to the care of the people in charge. Immediately upon these proceedings becoming known all shops in the town were closed, and a telegram dispatched to the Kaïmakam of Lapsista, reporting what had taken place, and urgently entreating him to come in person to Sciatista and hold an inquiry into the action of his subordinate. This request was acceded to by the Kaïmakam, who arrived at Sciatista the same evening, and at once satisfied himself by a personal inspection of Despos' condition as to the truth of what the townspeople had alleged.

The day following the Kaïmakam, in response to the repeated demands of the inhabitants, consented to dispatch two telegrams, one to Kemal Pasha, the Mutessarif of Serfidjé, and one to Faik Pasha, the Governor-General of the vilayet, recommending the suspension of Fethi Effendi, pending an official inquiry. A reply authorizing the above course was received the same day from Monastir, and Fethi Effendi accordingly left for Lapsista. The latter, as a result of the official inquiry held some five days later, was transferred to Ventcha, as already reported in my despatch above referred to, whence he has, I learn, again been transferred to Diskata, a small town not far from Glassona.

The above are the main details of the affair as related to me at Sciatista during a stay which extended over the greater part of two days, and I may add that, if I do not give the names of my informants, it is because almost every one with whom I came into contact made substantially the same statement, professing at the same time their willingness to repeat it if required. With Despos himself I was unable to obtain an interview, as he had some time previously been removed to Thessaly to undergo a course of medical treatment at the baths there. His condition, nevertheless, would appear to have been pitiable in the extreme, and, though I have no wish to overstate the case as against Fethi Effendi, I am bound to point out that the cruelty of the proceeding is enhanced by the fact that the latter, as at Teherushina, was present in person at the beating. It was, moreover, universally attested that the ill-usage of Despos by Fethi Effendi was due solely to reasons in the highest degree discreditable to the latter, an account which, I may add, was borne out by the wife of the unfortunate man himself.

With regard to the arrests in the Anaselitza district, the account given in the "Daily News" was, I found, as far as the number was concerned, substantially correct, some 200 persons having at one time or other been under detention at Lapsista during the month of June last on the charge of refusing to give information as to the whereabouts of brigands. In this case, however, I am glad to say the authorities appear to have acted from a sense of duty only, and from a determination to stamp out brigandage at all costs, as, even from those who were loudest in their denunciation of Fethi Effendi, I could obtain no confirmation of the charge that the prisoners had been ill-treated, still less that an attempt had been made to extract money from them by torture. The complaint here appeared to be that, in effecting the arrests above referred to, sufficient discrimination had not been made use of by the authorities; it was, however, admitted that their action had had a salutary effect as far as the public security of the province was concerned. The greater part of these prisoners have since been released; my Austrian colleague, however, who has recently passed through the district, informs me that there are still some fifty or sixty persons under detention pending further inquiries.

Before concluding my Report, it is due to the authorities generally in the Serfidjé Sandjak to state that the case of Fethi Effendi was, I found, entirely an exception, and that the people in the districts through which I passed enjoyed a far greater measure of liberty and well-being than I had been led to expect. I venture to speak with the greater certainty on the subject, as two whole days of my stay were passed entirely in the country, and, being acquainted with the language of the people, I was of course able to converse with them unrestrictedly. The fact, nevertheless, that an abuse of authority, such as I have above recorded, should have been possible, cannot be regarded otherwise than as a grave defect in the Turkish Administrative system, and, indeed, I found it a subject of general complaint among the people that, in case of wrong-doing, there was no means of appeal except from one official to another, and if, as sometimes happened, the latter was the former's friend, the appeal remained practically without

effect. In this respect, the presence of a Consular Agent at Kozana or some other central point in the sandjak would be of great benefit to the population generally, and though there are, no doubt, many difficulties in the way of making such an appointment, it is, I venture to think, well worthy of being taken into consideration.

On the political aspect of the question, though closely bound up with the well-being of the inhabitants of the sandjak, I do not venture to offer any observations, as my stay in the district (some five or six days only) was too short to enable me to form a definite opinion. Even to the most superficial observer, however, it could not fail to be evident that in a district in such close proximity to the frontier, and in which the dominant element is undoubtedly Greek, the want of an arrangement between the two Governments for the extradition of criminals, directly tending, as it does, to favour the existence of brigandage, is a continual source of friction between the population and the authorities. The latter, as matters stand, cannot altogether be blamed for the severity of the precautionary measures which they may from time to time feel called upon to adopt in order to suppress the evil, and of which the arrests in Anaselitza are an instance in point. In the meantime, there can be no doubt that the absence of a Treaty such as I have alluded to entails upon the peasants who, as a class, are least able to bear it, an amount of hardship which is, for the most part, entirely undeserved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 99.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 24.)

Sir,

Salonica, November 13, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, a copy of a Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Capety relative to the closing of the Greek churches in the Sandjak of Serres.

I also inclose a translation, by Mr. Assistant Monahan, of a Proclamation issued by the Vali of Salonica, Galib Pasha, in which he repudiates all responsibility on the part of the Sultan's Government for the fact that the Greek priests in the Diocese of Salonica and elsewhere have ceased to perform Divine Service in their churches, and declares that His Majesty continues to grant to all his Christian subjects the complete religious liberty they have always hitherto enjoyed.

The Pasha told me, the day before yesterday, that according to the most recent reports which he has received from the provincial authorities in the interior the closing of the churches has, so far, not given rise to any disturbances on the part of the Greek inhabitants, and that in some districts the people appear to question the right of the Patriarch to take such an extreme measure.

In the town of Drama, for instance, the Bishop's mandate met with opposition from some of the leading members of the local Greek community, and it was only on the 8th instant that the churches were closed. I have also heard from unofficial sources that several churches in the districts of Vodina, Giumendja, and Doiran have not yet been closed owing to the unwillingness of that portion of the Bulgarian population that recognizes the supremacy of the Greek Patriarch to obey his order. Even in some of the villages in the immediate vicinity of Salonica the Greek priests, under strong pressure from the peasants, continue to perform Divine Service in their churches.*

It is, moreover, rumoured that the Vlach communities in the Vilayets of Monastir and Janina criticize in no favourable terms the Patriarch's attitude in his conflict with the Porte.

If these reports are well founded, we may see before long a considerable accession of Greco-Bulgarians, and even of Vlachs, to the Bulgarian Exarchate.

From all I hear and observe the more sensible and moderate among the Christians consider the Patriarch's present policy as not at all expedient or defensible on religious and moral grounds. It is chiefly the Pan-Hellenic party, recruited from native Greeks who have been educated in Greece proper, who approve and support it, under the impression, and with the ardent hope, that it will embarrass the Porte and force it to make such concessions in regard to the Berat question as will arrest the Bulgarian national

* This is the case in the villages of Laina, Aivat, Kiretch-¹¹ioi, and Kapoudjilar, all situate about 5 to 6 miles from Salonica.

movement in Macedonia, the steadily advancing progress of which excites their envy and jealousy. These sentiments are expressed in the recent articles published in the local Greek newspaper.

Although so far this crisis, I am happy to say, has not been attended by any disorder, still, if it lasts much longer, its effects will be felt in every homestead in the country, and may be availed of by designing agitators during the approaching Greek festivals for disturbing the public peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général,

Serres, le 5 Novembre, 1890.

A CAUSE de la démission du Patriarche Orthodoxe Denis V, du Saint-Synode, du Conseil Permanent Mixte, et de la suspension du fonctionnement des églises Orthodoxes de Constantinople, les Métropolitains de Serres, Zichna, Nevrocope, et Eleutheropolis ont dû aussi suspendre la Liturgie dans leurs diocèses respectifs, et depuis deux semaines les églises sont fermées, toute cérémonie religieuse a cessé, et les enterrements se font sans la moindre pompe.

Ces mesures ont produit une impression pénible chez les ouailles et il est à souhaiter que la crise ne se prolonge.

Pour le moment on est consterné, et quoique tranquille, on est mécontent. La prolongation de l'état actuel en augmentant le mécontentement pourrait provoquer des embarras.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) CONSTN. CAPETY.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Serres, November 5, 1890.

IN consequence of the resignation of the Orthodox Patriarch Denis V of the Holy Synod and of the Permanent Mixed Commission, and of the closing of the Orthodox churches of Constantinople, the Metropolitans of Serres, Zichna, Nevrocope, and Eleutheropolis, have also been compelled to cease performing Divine Service in their respective dioceses, and for the last fortnight the churches have been closed, all religious services have ceased, and funerals are conducted without the least ceremony.

These measures have produced a painful impression among the people, and it is to be hoped that the crisis will not be prolonged.

For the moment people are alarmed, and although quiet they are dissatisfied. The continuance of the present state of affairs, by increasing the discontent, might give rise to embarrassment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CONSTN. CAPETY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)

THE Greek Patriarch of Constantinople, having resigned, has thought fit not to renew this year his permission to his priests to perform Divine Service in their churches.

Consequently the priests, as is well known, have ceased to officiate in the churches in our city, as in Constantinople and in other places. Malicious persons have attributed this fact to an order of the Imperial Government, and have spread unfounded reports to this effect. The Imperial Government has issued no such prohibition, and His Majesty the Sultan continues to grant to his subjects of all sects the complete religious liberty which they have always enjoyed. All Christians are therefore free to worship in their churches as hitherto, and we officially contradict by the present all rumours to the contrary.

Salonica, November 10, 1890.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

My Lord,

Canea, Crete, November 11, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that yesterday about 200 Christians repaired to the Episcopal Palace at Canea, and asked for information with regard to the pending question of the Patriarchate, as Christians are prevented meanwhile from performing their religious duties. The Bishop having answered that he was not able to give information on the subject a Committee of ten members was appointed, five of whom were deputed to Djevad Pasha. They told his Excellency that he mentioned, in his official Notification, that the question concerning the Greek Orthodox Church was about to be settled amicably, but seeing with regret that time was elapsing without result, the Christian population begged him to submit to the Sultan that they could remain no longer with their churches closed.

Djevad Pasha replied that he was told so by only five Christians, and that the question was not a religious but a political one, raised by M. Tricoupis. To this the deputation replied that if his Excellency wished, one or two thousand Christians would appear before him to confirm their words; that they did not care whether the question was religious or political, and that all they wished to know was whether his Excellency would kindly submit their demand to the Sultan. Djevad Pasha having promised to do so, they retired quietly.

I heard from Candia, on the 10th instant, that the Christians there had addressed a Memorandum to the Governor, begging that the Porte would settle the difficulty with the Patriarch, so that the priests might officiate as before; and that last week a certain Mehmed Effendi Caraslanaki, a member of the Civil Tribunal, availing himself of the interruption of relations between the Turkish and the Ecclesiastical authorities, was erecting a building, which he had not been hitherto allowed to do, in the church-yard of a ruined Greek Church in the town of Candia.

Mr. Vice-Consul Trifilli wrote, under the same date, that in consequence of an invitation from the Bishop of Rethymo, all the priests in that district repaired on Friday last to the town, and, after hearing the contents of the Patriarch's Circular, returned to their respective villages without making the slightest demonstration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 25, 1890.

YOUR Excellency has received from Her Majesty's Consul-Governor at Salonica a copy of his despatch of the 9th instant, forwarding a further Report by Mr. Vice-Consul Shipley respecting the outrages said to have been perpetrated by the Turkish authorities in Sciatista and other districts in Southern Macedonia.

From personal inquiry made by Mr. Shipley on the spot, it appears that Fethi Effendi, late Mudir of Sciatista, cruelly ill-treated a number of Christians, and in particular caused a leather-dresser of that place named Nicholas Despos to be subjected to so severe a flogging that he entirely lost consciousness.

I should wish you to make a strong representation to the Porte with regard to the conduct of Fethi Effendi, and the bad effect which must be produced if he is allowed to remain unpunished, and is merely transferred in the same capacity to another town inhabited entirely by Christians.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

Str E. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord,

Athens, November 21, 1890.

I PAID a long visit to M. Deligeorges this morning, and was, on the whole, agreeably impressed by his manner and conversation.

He wished to reassure me as to M. Delyanni's pacific intentions, and stated that the new Government would not be less scrupulous in their observance of the duties imposed upon them by foreign obligations than their predecessors. They had, in particular, every wish to avoid disputes with the Ottoman Empire.

I, of course, expressed my satisfaction with these declarations.

M. Deligeorges then entered upon a lengthy review of the question between the Ottoman Government and the Œcumenical Patriarch, with the details of which I need not trouble your Lordship. His Excellency's point was, that in the interests of the Sultan himself it is desirable that the interdict under which all the Othodox Churches are closed, and all the rites and offices of the Orthodox faith are suspended in His Imperial Majesty's dominions, should be raised as soon as possible. His view is that the continuance of the present state of things will inspire the Orthodox Greeks, subjects of the Sultan, with the conviction that the Patriarch is powerless to protect their privileges, and that the moral influences of the Hellenic Government in support of the Patriarch is of no value whatever. A conviction of this kind will tend to the weakening of Turkey, and will at any rate be far more prejudicial than advantageous to her interests.

M. Deligeorges referred to the suggestion which has been made in several quarters that, as the Patriarch cannot canonically recognize the existence of duplicate Bishops in the dioceses under his jurisdiction, unless it is arranged that they are to be called schismatics, and to wear some distinctive attire, the Porte might propose, as a solution of the difficulty, that this question of the Berats should be left for the present as an open one, sufficient satisfaction being given to the Patriarch by a Firman recognizing all the traditional privileges of the Œcumenical Church.

I asked him whether he had sent any instructions to the Greek Minister in the sense of intervention, and he said most certainly not; and that the Greek Government would take no steps of the sort. M. Mavrocordato would confine himself to friendly observations as to the propriety of being conciliatory on both sides; anything further than this would be most inexpedient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

My Lord,

Salonica, November 17, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that according to statements in the "Cossova Gazette" and to information obtained by me from private sources the emigrants from Montenegro who were settled in Servia have for some time past been gradually returning to Montenegro, although the Servian Government is said to have offered them land and seed, and to have, in other ways, made efforts to induce them to remain.

It would seem to have been a serious mistake on the part of the Servian Government to have established these emigrants, as it did, in the vicinity of the Turkish frontier, as their presence there gave rise to cattle raids and other disorders to both sides of the border.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 1.)

My Lord,

Salonica, November 20, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, according to statements in the local Turkish newspapers, the courts martial in the Vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, Monastir, and Janina, are to be abolished and, in their stead, a central court martial is to be established at Monastir, the head-quarters of the Third Army Corps, with jurisdiction over all the above-mentioned vilayets, and with power to depute, if necessary, a Commission formed of two or three of its members to inquire into any case on the spot where it has arisen, and to report upon it to Monastir, where judgment will be given by the Central Court. The measure appears to give general satisfaction; it is regarded as a step towards the abolition of the existing state of siege.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 1.)

Sir,

Salonica, November 22, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a Report of Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, from which your Excellency will learn that the closing of the Greek churches in Prevesa has been attended by public demonstrations which have given some umbrage to the local authorities.

With regard to the attitude of the Greeks in the Salonica Vilayet, it would show from all I hear and observe that the Patriarch's action, instead of producing disorders as was hoped in some and feared in other quarters, has evoked the disapproval and discontent of the people. They feel that the Patriarch's proceedings are bringing into prominence the fact that the authority of their Church has been weakened by the growing feeling of nationality which induces the Bulgarians in Macedonia to gravitate towards the Bulgarian Exarchate; and it is owing to this tendency that most of the Greek Bishops in the province sustain in a hesitating and lukewarm manner the policy of their spiritual Chief.

The Vali Galib Pasha told me this morning that the churches in most of the districts in his vilayet have not been closed, and that the priests are urged to perform Divine Service in them, by the antagonism of that portion of the Bulgarian population which has not severed its connection with the Greek Patriarch. His Excellency more particularly mentioned the following districts: Gevgheli, Yenidjé-Vardar, Vodina, Kiuprulu (Velès), Stroumitza, Avret-Hissar, Demir-Hissar, Tikvesh, Petrich, and Djuma-bala.

In the town of Doiran the churches are closed, but not those in the villages of that district.

In Melnik, where there is a numerous Greek community, the churches were closed, but have since been opened on the 18th instant; and, as I reported in one of my previous despatches on the subject, the churches in some villages in the immediate vicinity of Salonica remain open. It is only in districts entirely inhabited by Greeks that the measure has been more completely carried out, but even there it has not met with universal approval. For instance, in the township of Panomi, in the Peninsula of Chalcidice, the churches were opened and divine service was celebrated on the 20th instant, for the Feast of St. Michael.

I should add that Galib Pasha highly disapproves of the publication of the recent articles in the "Pharos tes Makedonia" against the Bulgarians, to which I referred in my despatch of the 13th instant, and has warned the editor that in case of such matter again appearing in the columns of his newspaper the penalty imposed by law will be inflicted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Prevesa, November 11, 1890

I HAVE the honour to report that early on the 5th instant the Mutessariff invited the Elders of the town to the konak and told them that in consequence of certain differences between the Government and the Patriarchate the latter had ordered the closing of the churches, but that he trusted they would use their influence to prevent any breach of the peace, inasmuch as the Government never intended to interfere with the Christian worship, and, further, that he trusted the Sultan would bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion.

A Notice somewhat to that effect was posted up in several parts of the town.

On the following day, the 6th, the Bishop, who had arrived from the country the evening before, accompanied by all the priests in Prevesa, called on the Mutessariff and communicated to him his instructions in connection with the closing of the churches, and all the priests then left the konak and proceeded to the Cathedral—St. Caralambo—where they were subsequently joined by the Bishop. A short service was held, after which the latter, addressing the congregation, told them that as the Orthodox Church was persecuted the churches would be closed. One voice only was heard to cry, "Zeto, the Patriarch!" but this was the expression of a single individual.

As the Bishop, acting under instructions, no doubt, had to retire to a monastery before evening the next day (7th), he entered the Church of St. Constantine, the church-yard being thronged with people, and once more addressed the people in most touching terms. Everybody present, including the Bishop, then knelt down and offered up a prayer to the Almighty for their Church, after which cries of "Zeto, Orthodoxy!" and, I am told, "Zeto, Russia!" were raised. The Bishop, who, instead of the head-gear worn by Bishops, wore a brown woollen cap usually worn by monks, then left the church and departed on horseback for the Monastery of St. Apostles, situated a few hours distant from Prevesa, all the Christians following him to a certain distance outside the town and several as far as the monastery.

I am told that outside the town cries of "Down with Italy!" were also raised.

My impression of the whole affair is that the Bishop should have avoided entering the Church of St. Constantine when he saw the crowd that was waiting for him. As to the local authorities, whose position must have been a very difficult one, they acted throughout with the greatest prudence and very wisely allowed the Christians to give free expression to their wounded feelings.

All the churches are now closed, and black crape is hung outside the closed doors.

As turbulent characters are everywhere to be found, the Mutessariff called the Mayor yesterday and told him that the military and other Mahommedans did not view with favour all that which took place on the 7th, and advised him to warn people to keep quiet, for on the contrary military law would be proclaimed.

As the Janina post has not come in yet, I cannot tell what took place there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 106.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

My Lord,

Canea, Crete, November 25, 1890.

ON Sunday last the tolling of the Greek Cathedral bells called Christians to a meeting, which it was their intention to hold a few days since, concerning the pending ecclesiastical question. The Christians, many of whom keep their shops open even on Sunday, closed them, and a few who did not follow the general movement were called "Freemasons," a most injurious name in these parts. About 1,200 men having answered the call, they repaired to the Episcopal Palace, from whence they proceeded to the residence of the Governor, as the Bishop could give them no satisfactory answer to their inquiries. Not far from the Government Palace they met a squad of fifty soldiers with fixed bayonets. At this juncture the Colonel of Police arrived, having been called in haste from a picnic to which he had gone with Djevad Pasha, and engaged

the manifestants to withdraw and appoint delegates to submit their demands to the Governor-General. The mob retired without offering the slightest resistance.

On his return from the country Djevad Pasha, who knew of the intended demonstration, and had given orders before his departure, ordered the arrest of a certain Loukaki, a merchant, as the principal leader, and of Vliithaki, a shoemaker, and Markoulaki, a publican, the two Christians who had called one or more of their co-religionists "Freemasons." Next day E. Benigelo, Spiridon Moazzo, C. Foumi, E. E. Papadero, Siridaki, lawyers, and C. Foumi, a merchant, were likewise imprisoned as being at the head of the movement.

These imprisonments were greatly resented by Christians, who again told the church bells for the purpose of coming to a decision with regard to the prisoners. Yesterday I called on Djevad Pasha in order to find out on what grounds these nine Christians were kept in prison. His Excellency told me that he had authorized meetings on the condition that no seditious language was held, and that no crowds paraded the narrow streets of Canea, as a precaution against accidents, which might cause trouble if happening to a Mussulman, and that his last injunction not having been listened to, he wished to impress on the people that he would not allow them to have it their own way. I pointed out to his Excellency that after all, no accident having taken place, there was no real reason for continuing to keep the fore-mentioned Christians in prison, and that by so doing he only exposed himself to be called upon to release them, a demand which he would be compelled to refuse to comply with, although he admitted himself that there was no serious ground for prolonging their detention. I further pointed out to Djevad Pasha that the display of a public force with fixed bayonets during a quiet demonstration might have had most disastrous consequences if resistance had been offered by some hot-headed or drunken individual; that Christians being in a great minority in the town, nothing was to be feared from them here, while the Mussulman rabble, as I was assured, were ready to join the soldiers, and any harm done to a single Christian in the town would have been avenged on a large scale on the country Mussulmans. Djevad Pasha not having denied the truth of my statement, I gave him the friendly advice to immediately set at liberty the prisoners, whom he intended to release only the next day. While I was speaking a deputation was announced, and I awaited the result of their interview with the Pasha. He told me on his return that the delegates had behaved with becoming respect, merely asking that he should represent to his Government the inconvenience accruing to the population from the closing of the churches, and that he had promised to submit the fact to the Sultan, advising them at the same time to make a similar communication to the Patriarch. His Excellency having added that the behaviour of the deputies allowed him to be lenient, I repeated to him my suggestion to immediately set the prisoners at liberty without waiting for the morrow. He answered that he would consult his advisers, and let me know his decision before evening. On my return home I found a note from Djevad Pasha telling me that the prisoners had been released, and so in fact they had been half an hour after my interview with him.

The present incident, which was not without real danger, was luckily tided over, but Christians are daily getting more excited with regard to the ecclesiastical question, which gives them real annoyance, and towards which they cannot assume a different attitude to their co-religionists in other parts. There are complaints concerning the burial of the dead and the baptism of children, the latter being delayed until there is danger of death, and being performed without the usual ceremonies; but they can hardly put up with the non-solemnization of marriages. This is the season during which most of the latter are performed, and they are especially common in years like the present, when the olive crop is abundant. The wisest among Christians say that they cannot submit without protesting by some public demonstration, as their silence might be taken as an acquiescence in the present state of things.

I understand that the object of the demonstration of Sunday last was to prove to Djevad Pasha that the delegates sent to him on a previous occasion (reference to my despatch No. 151 of the 11th instant) had not merely assumed the title of representatives of the population, but were seriously to be considered as such. I am told that yesterday the Christian delegates pointed out the inopportuneness of the display on the previous day of a number of soldiers with fixed bayonets, and the serious consequences that might have resulted therefrom.

The Greek Consul-General having begged me of all his colleagues to use my influence with Djevad Pasha on behalf of the prisoners, a step which I would have taken in any case, I called on M. Yennadis after my interview with the Vali. I heard from him that he had seen Djevad Pasha shortly before me, and that, finding

him in a perplexed state of mind, he had offered his intervention, which was accepted by the Vali on the condition that the deputation, which he knew was about to be sent to him (the same that came while I was at the Palace), should make no mention of the prisoners. This the Greek Consul managed to do by the appointment as delegates of appropriate men. My Greek colleague told me that he had not considered it opportune to speak in his interview with Djevad Pasha of the immediate release of the prisoners, but that he would again see him before evening and likewise make the suggestion, which in fact he did.

Meetings were held on the same day at Sphakia and Apokorona for the purpose of sending delegates here with the same object. At the meeting at Apokorona, which consisted of about 1,000 individuals, there was a disagreement between the mountaineers and the lowlanders, the former wishing to hold an armed meeting, but yielding at last to the opinion of the other party.

Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino has reported to me that at a meeting which had taken place in Candia on the 16th instant, delegates were appointed, who handed to the Governor a Petition praying for the maintenance of the privileges hitherto enjoyed by them, and for the opening of the churches; and that the Mutessarif had promised to send this document to the Vali.

I have heard from Mr. Vice-Consul Trifilli that meetings were also held in the districts of Amari and Ayos Vassilios on the 16th and 20th instant respectively, and that Petitions were drawn up and signed by all present to the address of Djevad Pasha, pointing out the inconvenience to which Christians were subject, and begging for a prompt settlement of the ecclesiastical question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 107.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 2.)

My Lord,

Athens, November 26, 1890.

I SAW M. Delyanni this afternoon, and his Excellency stated to me that he is desirous of avoiding all complications which might disturb the peace of Europe.

He said that he hoped that the apprehensions which his accession to office had inspired abroad, and especially it would seem in England, were beginning to be dispelled, and that the assurances given both by himself and M. Deligeorges to the foreign Representatives had been accepted with the same sincerity with which they had been uttered.

I replied that in common with all my colleagues I had found M. Deligeorges utterances very satisfactory, and that we all of us hoped that the new Government would pursue a policy in entire conformity with the language of the Foreign Minister.

M. Delyanni referred to the question of the Patriarchate and the dispute between the Porte and the Orthodox Church in very moderate terms, and said that the Hellenic Government had taken no part in the matter at issue, and was not disposed to meddle in it.

I told him that I thought his declaration on this point very satisfactory.

His Excellency's manner was very cordial throughout our interview, and on leaving him I said that I desired nothing better than to be on the most friendly relations with him; to which assurance he responded with professions of hearty reciprocity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 108.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 28, 1890.

I HAVE had the honour to state, in my despatch of the 6th November, that the Grand Vizier and his colleagues were prepared to explain, and to a certain extent complete, the provisions of the Decree dated the 13th October, which was forwarded by me to your Lordship in my despatch of the 15th October.

I now have the honour to inclose copy of a Vizirial letter, addressed on the 13th November, 1306, to the Imperial Ministry of Public Worship, and communicated to the Œcumenical Patriarchate, treating of the various points in dispute, which has been handed to me officially.

We must await the results of the step now taken by the Sublime Porte, which I shall not fail immediately to report to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Vizirial Letter, dated November 13, 1306.

(Traduction.)

EN réponse à la communication qui lui a été faite des décisions prises après délibération en Conseil des Ministres, sur l'instance du Patriarcat Œcumenique, concernant ses privilèges ecclésiastiques, sa Sainteté le Patriarche expose, dans un "takrir" transmis à la Sublime Porte par votre Excellence, qu'il existe des différences essentielles entre ses demandes et les Résolutions arrêtées.

D'après les explications verbales données par le Patriarcat, ces différences portent, en matière de pensions alimentaire, sur la non-perception de la partie adverse des frais occasionnés par l'emprisonnement des débiteurs détenus en exécution de décisions définitives rendues par le Patriarcat; en matière testamentaire, sur la non-inscription par les Tribunaux des biens meubles et immeubles légués par un orthodoxe, ses héritiers fussent-ils majeurs ou mineurs; en matière scolaire, sur l'approbation par le Patriarche ou les Métropolitains des programmes d'études et des diplômes des professeurs et des institutrices; et, enfin, sur la modification du costume des Évêques Bulgares et l'insertion de certaines dispositions dans leurs Bérats.

Le Conseil des Ministres, après avoir examiné ces questions, a rendu les décisions suivantes.

Comme il est juste de ne pas percevoir de la partie adverse des frais d'entretien pour les débiteurs emprisonnés en exécution des sentences définitives prononcées en matière de pensions alimentaires, une disposition spéciale sera ajoutée à ce sujet au Règlement sur l'exécution des Jugements.

Pour ce qui est des testaments, si un Chrétien ayant des héritiers, majeurs ou mineurs, laisse un testament confirmé par le Patriarche, un Métropolitain, ou un Évêque, cet acte sera reconnu valable par les Tribunaux, et les biens légués, tant meubles qu'immeubles, à l'exception des terres Émirié et des Vacoufs, seront remis au légataire sans qu'on y mette la main. Les contestations entre héritiers du chef de pareils testaments étant à Constantinople du ressort du Conseil Mixte du Patriarcat, conformément à l'Article 3 du Règlement de ce Conseil, seront de même jugées dans les provinces par les Conseils Métropolitains et les sentences rendues mises à exécution par les bureaux exécutifs.

De même que les programmes scolaires sont dressés ou approuvés par le Patriarcat ou les sièges Métropolitains, et les diplômes et certificats des professeurs ou institutrices certifiés par ces autorités ecclésiastiques, il est nécessaire que le Gouvernement en ait aussi connaissance. Par conséquent, les cours des écoles seront inspectés par l'Inspecteur ou le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, et s'il est constaté que l'on y enseigne des matières nuisibles, et que parmi les instituteurs ou institutrices il en existe de non-diplômes, les dites matières seront, après correspondance avec le Patriarcat ou les Métropolitains, interdits, et les professeurs et institutrices sans diplôme remplacées par leur entremise.

Quant au changement du costume des Métropolitains Bulgares, les recommandations qui ont été déjà précédemment faites à ce sujet à sa Béatitude l'Exarque Bulgare lui seront renouvelées.

La suspension depuis quelque temps des services religieux dans les églises provoque à l'heure qu'il est les plaintes des populations Grecque et Bulgare de la Roumélie contre le Patriarcat. Or, il est de notoriété publique que le Gouvernement Impérial ne s'est jamais départi de son attitude conservatrice et pleine d'équité à l'égard des prerogatives religieuses. Ainsi qu'il a été expliqué en détail dans la communication précédente ces prerogatives sont intégralement maintenues et restent en pleine vigueur, et des grandes facilités ont été accordées en ce qui concerne les affaires du Patriarcat et des Chefs religieux, qui dès lors doivent être confiants et rassurés, et, appréciant à leur haute valeur les concessions octroyées *ab antiquo* par le Gouverne-

ment Impérial au Patriarcat, et confirmées par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan notre auguste Maître, se montrer satisfaits et reconnaissants.

Le Conseil a donc été d'avis d'inviter sa Sainteté le Patriarche, par l'entremise de votre Excellence, à reprendre l'exercice de ses fonctions, et faisant preuve de dévouement, à s'abstenir de tous actes de nature à froisser la conscience de la communauté Grecque, tels que la suspension du service divin dans les églises, et de tous autres faits contraires aux devoirs de fidélité entraînant sa responsabilité.

Un Iradé Impérial ayant sanctionné les décisions qui précèdent, votre Excellence voudra bien s'y conformer.

(Translation.)

IN reply to the communication made to the Ecumenical Patriarch informing his Holiness of the decisions come to after a deliberation in the Council of Ministers held at the request of the Patriarchate concerning its privileges, his Holiness points out in a "takrir" transmitted to the Sublime Porte by your Excellency that there are essential differences between his demands and the resolutions adopted.

According to the verbal explanations given by the Patriarchate, these differences refer, in matters of alimony, to the question of not levying from the opposing party the expenses caused by the imprisonment of debtors in consequence of definitive decisions given by the Patriarchate; in matters concerning wills, to the question of the Courts not registering real or personal property bequeathed by a member of the Orthodox Church, whether his heirs be of age or not; in scholastic matters, to the approval by the Patriarchate or the Metropolitan of the programmes of studies and the diplomas given to professors and governesses; and, lastly, to the modification of the costumes worn by Bulgarian Bishops and the insertion of certain provisions in their Berats.

The Council of Ministers, after examining these questions, have come to the following decisions:—

As it is just not to levy from the opposing party the expenses of maintenance for debtors imprisoned in consequence of definitive sentences pronounced in matters of alimony, a special provision on the subject will be added to the Regulation relative to the carrying out of sentences.

As regards wills, if a Christian having heirs, of age or under age, leaves a will confirmed by a Patriarch, a Metropolitan, or a Bishop, the validity of this document will be recognized by the Tribunals, and the property bequeathed, either real or personal, excepting Emirîé and Vakouf lands, will be given over to the legatee without their being touched. Claims between heirs and under such wills coming at Constantinople under the jurisdiction of the Mixed Council of the Patriarchate, in conformity with Article 3 of the Regulations of that Council, will in the same way be judged in the provinces by the Metropolitan Councils, and their sentences put into execution by the executive bureaux.

In the same way as the scholastic programmes are drawn up and approved by the Patriarchate or the Metropolitan sees, and the diplomas and certificates of professors or governesses are certified by those ecclesiastical authorities, it is necessary that the Government should be informed thereof. Consequently, the programme of instruction in the schools will be inspected by the Inspector or the Director of Public Instruction, and if it be found that undesirable subjects are taught, or that among the masters or mistresses there are some without diplomas, the said subjects will be prohibited, after communication with the Patriarchate or the Metropolitans, and the masters and mistresses without diplomas will be replaced by others chosen by them.

As regards the change of the costume of the Bulgarian Metropolitans, the suggestions already made to his Beatitude the Bulgarian Exarch on this subject will be renewed.

The suspension of religious services in churches which has been maintained for some time gives rise at present to complaints against the Patriarchate on the part of the Greek and Bulgarian populations of Roumelia. It is notorious that the Imperial Government have never abandoned their conservative and equitable attitude towards religious prerogatives. As it has been explained in detail in the preceding communication, these prerogatives are fully maintained, and remain in full vigour, and great facilities have been given for the transaction of the affairs of the Patriarchate and the religious Chiefs, who should, therefore, feel confidence and security, and should appear satisfied and grateful, thereby appreciating the full value of the conces-

sions granted *ab antiquo* by the Imperial Government to the Patriarchate, and confirmed by His Majesty the Sultan our august Master.

The Council have therefore thought it advisable to ask his Holiness the Patriarch, through your Excellency, to resume the exercise of his functions, and to give proofs of his devotion by abstaining from all acts of a nature to shock the conscience of the Greek community, such as the suspension of Divine Service in the churches, and from all acts contrary to the duties of fidelity towards the Government in which his responsibility is involved.

The above decisions having been sanctioned by an Imperial Iradé, your Excellency will be good enough to conform to it.

No. 109.

Foreign Office to Consul Biliotti.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 4, 1890.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 25th ultimo, in which you give an account of a public meeting which was held at Canea with reference to the Greek Ecclesiastical question.

The advice which you gave to his Excellency Djevad Pasha, as to the immediate liberation of those persons who were imprisoned on that occasion, is approved by his Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 110.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 9.)

Sir,

Salonica, December 1, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two Reports from the British Vice-Consulate at Prevesa, relative to the action of the Turkish authorities in suppressing demonstrations made by the Greek communities of Prevesa and Janina in connection with the closing of their churches.

I have not yet received a Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Shipley with regard to this Church question, but have been informed by persons who arrived here yesterday from Monastir that the churches there and in most places of that vilayet have not been closed.

The situation in the Vilayet of Salonica remains unchanged since the date of my last Report on the subject; I have, however, just heard that the Greek community has prepared a loyal Address to the Sultan, which is being numerously signed, in which they refer to the anxiety and distress they experience from the non-settlement of the pending questions between the Patriarchate and his Government, and humbly pray His Majesty to take such action as will uphold the privileges conferred by his ancestors on the Greek Church.

A Deputation composed of four of the leading members of the Archbishops' Council ("Demogherondia") will present the Address to Galib Pasha and beg his Excellency to forward it to His Majesty.

The small Greco-Vlach communities in Uscup and Kalkandelen in the Vilayet of Cossova have closed their two churches, but the Bulgarian inhabitants of those and all the other towns, as well as of the villages in that vilayet, continue to ignore the Patriarch's mandate.

In Comanova, in the above-mentioned vilayet, which also contains a Greco-Vlach community, there being only one church, two services were daily performed, the one by Bulgarian and the other by Greek priests. The latter, on receiving the Patriarch's order, closed the church and forwarded its keys to the Greek Archbishop of Uscup when the Bulgarian Bishop Theodosius addressed a complaint to the Vali Ahme Eyoub Pasha, who, after inquiring into the matter, caused the keys to be given up to the Bulgarian priests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Prevesa, November 18, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that the proceedings of the 7th instant have resulted in the arrest of six persons on Sunday last, the 13th, and the escape of a few more to the Greek side of the Gulf. The above-mentioned six individuals were sent to Janina very early on Saturday last.

According to accounts received from Mr. Kyprioti, the closing of the churches at Janina did not give rise to any breach of the peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Mr. Kyprioti to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Traduction.)

Monsieur,

Janina, le 16 Novembre, 1890.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que ce jour, depuis 9 heures du matin, la population Chrétienne commença à se réunir dans la cour de l'Église Cathédrale de Janina, ce qui dura jusqu'à 11 heures avant midi, quand on y cria "Vive Sa Majesté le Sultan!" et se dirigeant vers la Préfecture, pour prier, à ce qu'on dit, le Gouverneur-Général pour expédier un télégramme à Sa Majesté le sollicitant d'ôter les motifs qui ont donné lieu à la démission du Patriarch, et rendre les privilèges dont l'Église jouissait jusqu'ici. Quand la foule avança jusqu'à un point de la route principale qui conduit à la Préfecture, se présenta la police et l'empêcha d'avancer. Dans cet entretemps arriva l'Alaï Bey suivi de ses gendarmes et ordonna le monde à se disperser. Pourtant la foule avançait toujours. Alors des détachements de soldats arrivèrent et en fixant les baïonnettes dispersèrent les gens en les attaquant par des bourrades.

Aussi on a mis quelques personnes en arrestation dans la Préfecture.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) B. KYPRIOTI.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Janina, November 16, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that to-day, at the hour of 9 A.M., the Christian population began to assemble in the court of the Cathedral Church of Janina. At 11 A.M., with cries of "Long live His Majesty the Sultan," they took the road to the Prefecture, in order, as is said, to beg the Governor-General to send a telegram to His Majesty praying him to remove the causes which have led to the resignation of the Patriarch, and to restore the privileges hitherto enjoyed by the Church. When the crowd reached a point in the principal street which leads to the Prefecture, the police intervened and prevented their advance. At this moment Alaï Bey arrived, followed by his gendarmes, and ordered the people to disperse; nevertheless the crowd continued to advance. Detachments of soldiers then arrived and dispersed the people with fixed bayonets, attacking them with blows.

Some persons were also put under arrest in the Prefecture.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 110.

Acting Vice-Consul Conéménos to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, le 25 Novembre, 1890.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que la semaine passée une vingtaine des Anciens de cette ville ont signé une Pétition à son Excellence le Vali de Janina en faveur des personnes qui furent arrêtées et conduites à Janina à la suite de la démonstration qui eut lieu pour les privilèges de l'Église Orthodoxe, dans laquelle ils exposent à son Excellence que la dite démonstration fut provoquée par beaucoup d'étrangers et par un esprit d'exaltation religieuse.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) CÉSAR CONÉMÉNOS.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, November 25, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that last week about twenty of the Elders of this town signed a Petition to his Excellency the Vali of Janina on behalf of the persons who were arrested and conducted to Janina in consequence of the demonstration which was made in favour of the privileges of the Orthodox Church. The petitioners point out to his Excellency that the said demonstration was brought about by a large number of strangers and by a feeling of religious excitement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CÉSAR CONÉMÉDOS.

 Inclosure 4 in No. 110.
Acting Vice-Consul Conémédos to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, le 25 Novembre, 1890.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que Jeudi passé son Excellence le Mutessarif recût ordre du Vali de Janina de faire conduire à Janina M. Alexis Harissis, Conseiller de Justice de la Cour d'Assises et un des Anciens de la communauté Chrétienne de Prevesa.

M. Alexis Harissis est le beau-père de M. C. Tolia, l'un de ceux qui ont été arrêtés et conduits déjà à Janina à la suite de la démonstration qui a eu lieu ici, et il paraît que son arrestation a été motivée par la même cause.

On le conduisit à Janina Vendredi passé tout tranquillement et de manière à ne pas inquiéter sa famille, laquelle croyait qu'il s'y rendait de sa propre volonté, comme en effet il avait pris des dispositions de faire pour intervenir auprès de son Excellence le Vali en faveur de son gendre M. Tolia et les autres personnes arrêtées, prenant avec lui à cet effet la Pétition des Anciens à laquelle je fais allusion dans ma dernière dépêche.

Je dois ajouter que le susdit M. A. Harissis a été destitué comme Conseiller de la Cour d'Assises et remplacé par M. C. Mammatis, mais tant qu'il était encore à Prevesa on ne lui avait pas même annoncé sa destitution.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) CÉSAR CONÉMÉDOS.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, November 25, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice that on Thursday last his Excellency the Mutessarif received orders from the Vali of Janina to send to Janina M. Alexis Harissis, a Councillor of the Court of Assize, and one of the Elders of the Christian community of Prevesa.

M. Alexis Harissis is the father-in-law of M. C. Tolia, one of the persons who have been already arrested and taken to Janina in consequence of the demonstration made here, and it appears that the arrest of M. Harissis results from the same cause.

He was taken to Janina on Friday last very quietly, so as not to disturb his family, who believed that he was going there at his own wish, as indeed he had arranged to do in order to intervene with his Excellency the Vali in favour of his son-in-law, M. Tolia, and the other persons arrested, taking with him for this purpose the Petition of the Elders alluded to by me in my last despatch.

I must add that the above-mentioned M. A. Harissis has been removed from his post of Councillor of the Assize Court, and replaced by M. C. Mammatis, but while he was still at Prevesa his dismissal had not yet been announced to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CÉSAR CONÉMÉDOS.

No. 111.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

My Lord,

Salonica, December 4, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that William Standin, seaman, of Her Majesty's ship "Collingwood," died here on the 1st instant in the hospital of the Sisters of Charity.

He was landed on the 14th October last, suffering from Mediterranean fever, and placed in the hospital; he was found to be unfit for removal to his ship; double pneumonia supervened, and of this disease he died.

His Excellency the Vali, on hearing of his death, at once gave permission, for which I had not yet applied, that a firing party of British sailors should be landed for the funeral, and ordered the police authorities to make every arrangement that would facilitate the passage of the procession through the streets.

The deceased was buried on the 2nd instant in the Protestant cemetery.

Captain Jackson, of Her Majesty's ship "Colossus," was in charge of the funeral, which was attended by a firing party from that ship, and by one from the Turkish gun-boat "Hania," as well as by myself and the members of this Consulate-General. The Captain and three officers of the "Hania," and the Major commanding the local police, were also present, the latter representing his Excellency the Vali.

Perfect order was preserved.

I may mention to your Lordship that the good offices rendered by the Turkish authorities were entirely spontaneous, and that the procession, while passing through the Turkish quarter and other parts of the town, appeared everywhere to be the object of respectful sympathy.

I should also refer to the care with which the deceased man, as well as the rest of the sick from Her Majesty's ship "Collingwood," have been treated by the Sisters of Charity, who did everything for them that it was in their power to do, especial service being rendered to the patients by the two English Sisters,* who personally ministered to their comfort.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—Rear-Admiral Lord Walter Kerr sent an officer to the Turkish gun-boat "Hania" to express to her Captain and officers his thanks for having assisted personally at the funeral with a firing party; and this morning I called on the Vali, Galib Pasha, with Captain Thomas, of Her Majesty's ship "Trafalgar," to tender to the Pasha the Admiral's grateful thanks for the kind attention shown by his Excellency, and for the facilities rendered by the local police on this occasion.

J. E. B.

No. 112.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 11, 1890.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to express to the Sublime Porte the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the kindness and courtesy shown by the Turkish authorities at Salonica in connection with the death and burial of William Standin, seaman, of Her Majesty's ship "Collingwood," the circumstances of which have been reported by Mr. Consul-General Blunt in his despatch of the 4th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 113.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 11.)

(Telegraphic.)

Athens, December 11, 1890.

I HAVE this day been positively assured by M. Deligeorges that the Patriarch of Constantinople and the Greeks in Turkey have never received, either from the late

* Sister Augustine (Bewicke) and Sister Josephine (Burke).

or the present Greek Government, any encouragement whatever in the dispute between the Orthodox Church and the Sultan's Government. Absolute abstention from this question has been impressed upon the Greek Minister at Constantinople, and the prevalent rumours as to a contrary attitude are entirely without foundation, as M. Delyanni and his colleagues are anxious to place the relations between Greece and Turkey on the most amicable footing.

I have sent this information to Sir W. White.

No. 114.

*Consul-General Holmwood to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office,
December 12.)*

Sir,

Smyrna, November 13, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that on Sunday last the whole of the Greek churches in this city were closed.

I learn, from a source that should be reliable, that about three weeks since orders were sent from the Patriarch at Constantinople to the various churches in Asia Minor and the Archipelago to carry out this measure simultaneously, but that the communications were stopped in transit by the Ottoman authorities.

Fresh orders were, however, promulgated by the Patriarch last week, and forwarded through the Greek Ambassador at Constantinople and the Greek Consul-General here, and the ecclesiastical authorities in the various islands at once closed their churches.

The Greek Archbishop of Smyrna, M. Vasylios, who is of Bulgarian birth, still hesitated, however, to carry out his instructions, and in this he was, I hear, strongly supported by the Russian Consul-General, who also endeavoured to persuade the Archbishop of Ephesus to disobey the Patriarch.

Considerable agitation having in the meantime arisen amongst the Greek community, M. Vasylios suddenly quitted Smyrna and went to Foggia. Last Friday a deputation of influential Greeks followed him there, and put such pressure on him, that he eventually signed and handed to them an order to close the Smyrna churches.

He appears to have yielded to the demands of the Greek community under protest, and to have stated to the deputation that in doing so he was acting distinctly in opposition to the wishes of Russia.

The churches under the Archbishops of Magnesia and Ephesus have now also been closed.

A strong feeling against the Archbishop of Smyrna has arisen among the Greek community here, with whom he has never been a favourite.

The "Amatthia," the leading Greek journal of Smyrna, has recently done much to strengthen this dislike, by publishing a report of an interview alleged to have taken place between him and the Archbishop of Sophia, who recently visited this city, in connection with which incident it was hinted that M. Vasylios was a Bulgarian at heart.

The Russian Consul-General, I am told, has now threatened the editor of the "Amatthia" that, if he again publishes matter of a nature to stir up ill-feeling in connection with these pending questions, he will use his influence to get his journal suppressed.

In the meantime, it is impossible to say what may be the result of this measure in a city which, with its suburbs, numbers 120,000 members of the Greek Church, fully half the entire population.

A large proportion of the Smyrna Greeks are of the lowest class, and among them are probably a greater number of reckless adventurers than in any European city. Their notorious aptitude for intrigue is not reassuring at the present juncture, and, although there are no present signs of any disturbance, it is impossible to predict what dangers may occur if the closing of the churches continued long enough to cause serious inconvenience to this large community.

Under these circumstances, I regret the departure of our squadron under Admiral Lord Walter Kerr, which took place this morning, as the consequences of a rising of the Greek population here would be most serious for British trade.

I have reason to believe that the above is a fairly accurate account of what has taken place, and transmit it, without comment, for your Excellency's information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERIC HOLMWOOD.

*Consul-General Holmwood to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office,
December 12.)*

Sir,

Smyrna, November 27, 1890.

REFERRING to my despatch of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that on Sunday last a demonstration was made by the Greek population of this city with the object of expressing their disapproval at the closing of their churches, and their hope that the Sultan would not delay his sanction to the measures demanded by their Patriarch for reinstating the Orthodox Church in the privileges which have recently been withdrawn from it.

The demonstration had been carefully organized by influential members of the Greek community, and every effort had been made to avoid the danger which would have accompanied its degeneration into a mere mob.

The Governor-General also had interviewed the Provisional Committee which had been formed, and had obtained a promise from it that that the Memorial which it had been decided to present to the Sultan should be submitted to his Excellency only by the recognized lay Representatives of the Greek Church. It was eventually decided that four members of the Central Committee and an equal number of the Committee of Elders should form the deputation, and on Saturday night these gentlemen waited on the Vali to learn whether he was willing to receive them, and whether he would give his consent publicly to their transmitting the Memorial to His Majesty by telegram.

In agreeing to their proposals, his Excellency laid stress on the importance of preventing the general crowd from accompanying the deputation to the Konak, and both the Committee and the special Delegates gave an assurance that they would do all in their power to retain the assemblage at the Church of St. Photini, where they were to meet, and to insure their tranquil dispersion to their homes as soon as the Delegates returned with a favourable reply.

At 10 o'clock on Sunday morning fully 15,000 Greeks had assembled at the cathedral, and, after publicly reading out the telegram to the Sultan, the Committee proposed that the assembly should remain at the spot while the Delegates drove to the Konak and returned with the Vali's reply.

The people, however, at once asserted themselves, and, refusing to allow the Delegates to enter the carriages which awaited them at the back of the Cathedral, they forced the deputation to proceed on foot, and accompanied them in a body. The Vali was warned by express messengers of what was occurring, and he wisely withdrew even the ordinary guard from the Palace, and retained all troops in the neighbouring barracks.

On finding the gates open to all comers, and all the approaches free from obstruction, the leading portion of the crowd entered the Konak and accompanied the Delegates into the Palace, and even as far as the doors of its reception-rooms on the upper floor, the remainder completely filling the Palace yard, and the large inclosure in front of the barracks.

His Excellency, in receiving the deputation, upbraided them in a few words for not controlling the mob, but he frankly accepted their excuses, and, after perusing the telegram, expressed entire approval of its contents, and at once sanctioned its transmission to the Sublime Porte.

This calm and sensible action had the best effect on the crowd, which, on learning the result of the interview, quietly dispersed after giving expression to their satisfaction in repeated cheers for the Sultan and their Patriarch.

The prudent attitude which his Excellency Halil Rifaat Pasha has maintained throughout an emergency which, to a Turkish official, must have offered considerable temptation for resorting to repressive measures, has undoubtedly had the effect of preserving tranquillity during the recent crisis, when the slightest mishap might have transformed what has proved to be a peaceable demonstration into a dangerous popular outbreak.

I annex translation of the Memorial transmitted by telegram to His Majesty the Sultan.

It is necessary to supplement this brief account of what has already occurred with a few remarks regarding the future of this new Greek question, and here the outlook is less reassuring.

The temperate manner in which the recent demonstration was conducted was owing to the discretion of its leaders in discouraging the attendance of the rowdy

element among the Greek population. But for this precaution, it is doubtful whether the tact displayed by the Vali would have sufficed to prevent disturbances.

The 15,000 men who assembled last Sunday included a large proportion of the middle-class Greeks, professional men, merchants, brokers, and others engaged in wholesale trade, with their clerks, but the majority was composed of the petty shopkeepers, who represent to a great extent the retail trade of Smyrna. Though generally springing from the lower orders and very ignorant, these have a certain stake in the country which restrains them, under ordinary circumstances, from countenancing public disturbance. Yet in moments of excitement they cannot be relied on, and it has been seen in this instance that their chosen leaders lost all control over them when they endeavoured to carry out the measures that had been agreed upon with the Vali for preserving order.

There is, however, resident in this city a large body of a very low order of Greek, who is generally without education and with responsibilities. Though commonly working as a labourer or artizan he is seldom in settled employment, and he manages to waste most of his time in the cafés and low beer-shops with which the town is more than amply supplied. These conditions, combined with a natural excitability and intense vanity, render him the easy dupe of any clever demagogue, especially under circumstances favouring a combination of reckless characters with the bulk of the community, under the plea of religious persecution.

There cannot be much less than 10,000 persons who would come more or less under this category, yet this class was scarcely represented at the recent meeting.

Should fresh demonstrations occur, however, we cannot count on the same organization or upon a repetition of the recent prudent arrangements, while it is probable that it might not be considered desirable, even if it were possible, to exclude this reckless element from any future proceedings.

Under such circumstances, the tacit sanction of the authorities to the public assemblage of so large a body of Greeks, who would undoubtedly for the moment hold this city and its commerce entirely at their mercy, is not likely to be accorded.

It would appear, therefore, that unless the Sublime Porte finds means for arranging the difficulty which has involved the closing of the Greek churches in Turkey, trouble must be anticipated in Asia Minor, and, if the state of affairs now existing does not become ameliorated before the Greek Christmas, such trouble may be accompanied with serious danger both to the country and its commerce.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERIC HOLMWOOD.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Memorial sent by Greek Population to His Majesty the Sultan.

(Translation.)

To His Most Glorious Majesty our best beloved Sovereign, Sultan Hamid, &c.

MAY the Most High ever preserve the power of your most merciful Majesty upon the brilliant Throne of Osman, as also your precious health, for the benefit of humanity. Amen.

The inhabitants of Smyrna and its surroundings, most faithful and devoted subjects of your Imperial Majesty, belonging to the Greek nation, whose gratitude for the unlimited favours and blessings which your Imperial Majesty has ever showered upon us in abundance is as deep as the ocean, submit with the greatest respect to your Majesty the present humble Petition.

An unexceptional serious duty and religion impose to-day upon us the audacity of assembling together to express our deepest sorrow at the difficulty and hopeless perplexity in which our Orthodox Church in general has been drawn by the obligatory hindrance of its religious rites.

Bearing in mind that your Imperial Majesty, who is distinguished for his wisdom and faith, is well aware that the existence of a whole nation is impossible without the practice of its religion, we courageously bend before the steps of your glorious Throne, and humbly beseech the removal of the causes of our emotion and our disorder, and to receive with indulgence the just demands of His Holiness our (Ecumenical Patriarch, which have been submitted some time ago, concerning the inviolable immunities which during so many centuries the powerful Sultans who have reigned so gloriously, as also up to the present your Imperial Majesty, has always respected and protected.

This new Imperial blessing would, on the one hand, have completed the eternal gratitude of our nation praying night and day for the longevity and glory of your Imperial Majesty, who, under like circumstances, has ever accorded us his gracious favours; on the other hand, it would have contributed to defend the peace and tranquillity of our Orthodox Church, which has been drawn into a dangerous position by the profound conviction of the necessity of praying and adoring in our temples the Almighty Being who accords to your Imperial Majesty immutable health and immortal glory.

It is in this hope that we remain the humble subjects of our most beneficent and beloved Sovereign, Sultan, &c.

No. 116.

Mr. C. Hardinge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

Sophia, November 27, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Stambouloff spoke to me yesterday upon the question of the Tariffs imposed on Bulgarian produce by the administration of Baron Hirsch's Railway Company, and he informed me that the Servian Government, having come to terms with the new Company which had bought the lines, he intended to insist upon Bulgarian produce receiving equally advantageous treatment at their hands, and not paying more than 4½ centimes per ton per kilom. If, however, the new Company should refuse to agree to these terms, he would feel himself compelled, in the interests of the agricultural population, to adopt the alternative measure reported in Mr. O'Connor's despatch of the 31st October last, of constructing a new parallel line with Bourgas as outlet, and thus making Bulgarian producers entirely independent of any vexatious treatment on the part of the new railway Company. He added that he would be perfectly justified in pursuing such a course, and that, although the construction of a new branch line would necessarily entail considerable expenditure, he reckoned that in a short time it would become a very remunerative outlay.

I told M. Stambouloff that, from what I had heard indirectly at Constantinople, I did not think it likely that the attitude of the new Company towards the Bulgarian Government would be as unconciliatory as that of the last Administration, and that it would be more politic not to mention his alternative project until fully convinced of the impossibility of a favourable compromise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

No. 117.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 15.)

Sir,

Salonica, December 10, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Address referred to in my despatch of the 1st instant as being prepared by the local Greek community on the subject of the pending questions between the Patriarch and the Sublime Porte was presented yesterday afternoon to the Pasha by a deputation composed of ten of the leading members of the community.

His Excellency received the deputation in a kind and courteous manner, and promised to forward the Address to the Sultan. It was evident that the Pasha was favourably impressed with the fact that all the members of the deputation are Ottoman subjects.

I inclose a translated copy of the Address.

I also inclose a copy of a Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Capety relative to the closing of the churches in the Sandjak of Serres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 117.

Address of Greek Community of Salonica.

(Traduction.)

Salonique, Novembre 1890.

LE peuple Orthodoxe de Salonique a recours avec respect à votre Excellence pour la prier de vouloir bien transmettre à Sa Majesté l'auguste père de ses peuples, notre Monarque le Sultan, qui dans sa puissance a eu toujours un soin paternel pour les peuples, lesquels, par la volonté de Dieu, vivent dans son Empire et qui libéralement répand ses grâces, que nous le supplions chaleureusement de daigner dans sa magnanimité ordonner l'applanissement des causes qui ont provoqué la fermeture de nos églises, donnant à notre nation les privilèges et grâces que ses illustres prédécesseurs ont prodigué, et ramener la joie aux cœurs affligés de notre nation, qui ne cesse pas de prier toujours à Dieu pour la longévité, la prospérité, et la gloire de Sa Majesté.

Soumettant à votre Excellence notre humble demande par une députation des représentants de notre communauté nous avons l'honneur de vous exprimer notre respect et notre dévouement.

(Follow more than 1,000 signatures.)

A son Excellence Galib Pacha,
Vali du Vilayet de Salonique.

(Translation.)

Salonica, November 1890.

THE Orthodox population of Salonica has respectfully recourse to your Excellency to beg you to be good enough to acquaint His Majesty, the august father of his people, our Sovereign the Sultan, who in his power has always had a fatherly care for the people, by the will of God, residing in his Empire, and who with a free hand distributes his favours, that we earnestly implore him in his generosity to give orders for the settlement of the questions which have caused the closing of our churches, by granting to our nation the privileges and favours which his illustrious predecessors freely bestowed, and thus once more rejoice the sad heart of our nation, which never ceases to pray to God for the long life, prosperity, and glory of His Majesty.

In submitting to your Excellency our humble request by a deputation of the representatives of our community, we have the honour to express to you our respect and our devotion.

(Follow more than 1,000 signatures.)

To his Excellency Galib Pasha,
Vali of the Vilayet of Salonica.

Inclosure 2 in No. 117.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général.

Serres, le 6 Décembre, 1890.

LES églises Orthodoxes de Serres, Zichna, Nevrocop, et Eleutheropolis restent encore fermées; par contre, celles de Melenico, Djuma-Bala, Petrich, et Timur-hissar, relevant du Métropolitain de Melenico, fonctionnent.

Le Métropolitain de Melenico lui aussi avait suivi l'exemple des autres Prélats du Patriarcat Oecuménique mais, comme je me suis informé, le Caïmacam de Melenico a obtenu de lui de révoquer cette décision, lui ayant promis de ne pas permettre aux Bulgares de Djouma-bala de mentionner dans la liturgie le nom de l'Exarque.

Dans mon précédent Rapport je disais que la fermeture des églises avait produit une pénible impression dans les ouailles et que les Chrétiens, quoique tranquilles, étaient mécontents. Les Chrétiens, y compris les Bulgaro-phones, qui se sont soumis sans résistance à la mesure prise par les Métropolitains, commencent à murmurer, surtout maintenant qu'il est Carême; et je répète qu'il est à souhaiter que la crise soit terminée avant Noël. L'état des esprits est tel que la prolongation de la crise pourra provoquer des démonstrations.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) CONST. CAPETY.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Serres, December 6, 1890.

THE Orthodox churches of Serres, Zichna, Nevrocop, and Eleutheropolis remain closed; on the other hand, those of Melenico, Djuma-Bala, Petrich, and Timur-hissar, under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan of Melenico, are open.

The Metropolitan of Melenico had likewise followed the example of the other Prelates of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, but, as I am informed, the Kaïmakam of Melenico induced him to cancel this decision, he having promised not to allow the Bulgarians of Djuma-Bala to mention the name of the Exarch in the Liturgy.

In my preceding Report I stated that the closing of the churches had produced a painful impression among the congregations, and that the Christians, although quiet, were discontented. The Christians, including the anti-Bulgarians, who submitted without resistance to the measure adopted by the Metropolitans, begin to grumble, especially now during Lent; and I repeat that it is desirable that the crisis should come to an end before Christmas. In the state of mind in which people are the prolongation of the crisis might give rise to demonstrations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CONST. CAPETY.

No. 118.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 15.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, December 6, 1890.

THE Emperor of Austria has recently been pleased to amnesty a man named Djoko Radovich, who took a leading part in the Herzegovinian insurrection of 1882, and who, with some others, was excluded from the general amnesty issued after the outbreak. This man has resided for several years at Nikshich; but a short time ago he came to the Austrian Legation and handed in a Petition to the Emperor praying to be allowed to return to his native country, and promising faithful allegiance to His Imperial Majesty.

The Petition was in due course forwarded to Vienna, and the Austrian Minister did not fail to impress upon his Government that it would be good policy to grant the request.

Radovich has now returned to his home.

There are many refugees from Herzegovina in this country whose notions of Montenegrin hospitality have been dispelled by bitter experience, and who would only be too glad to return to their homes. They are mostly far less compromised than Radovich was, and when they see a man, specially excluded from the amnesty, return quietly to his home, they will probably not be slow to follow his example.

Besides Herzegovinians, there are also a number of refugees from the Crivoscie who would, I believe, also be too glad to quit Montenegro. The Dalmatian authorities have not, however, imitated the wise policy of M. de Kállay, and are not inclined to let by-gones be by-gones. The Crivoscian refugees are therefore unable to return to their native province for fear of being made answerable for past political offences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 119.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. C. Hardinge.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 16, 1890.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 27th ultimo, in which you report a conversation which you held with M. Stambouloff upon the question of the tariffs imposed upon Bulgarian produce by the Administration of Baron Hirsch's Railway Company, and I approve the advice which you gave to his Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

My Lord,

Athens, December 11, 1890.

I ASKED M. Deligeorges this morning what news he had from Constantinople respecting the question of the Patriarchate.

His Excellency replied that his latest information from the Greek Minister there did not afford much encouragement to the hope of a speedy solution of the difficulty, and that he was sorry to find that both at the Porte and the Palace there existed a conviction that the Hellenic Government had been and continued to be responsible in a large degree for the obstinacy of the Patriarch, and for the implacable attitude of the Greek subjects of the Sultan.

He wished me, therefore, to understand clearly that neither from M. Tricoupi's Government nor from that now in office had any advice or suggestions whatever been conveyed to the Patriarch or to the Orthodox community which could have encouraged or inspired the recent imprudent step. On the contrary, M. Mavrocordato had been strictly instructed to hold himself entirely aloof from this question, and the Hellenic Government had not the slightest intention of changing their attitude in regard to it. The rumours prevailing to the contrary are absolutely untrue, and he (M. Deligeorges) could confidently affirm that no agent of the Greek Government had had any part in advocating resistance to the wishes of the Ottoman Government. He could not, however, deny that many Greeks domiciled in the Sultan's dominions, especially in the places where the Greek community is numerous, had identified themselves with the demonstrations in favour of the Patriarch. The Government regretted that such should be the case, but they could neither feel much surprise at it, nor take any efficacious measures to prevent it. The religious sentiment which pushed Orthodox Greeks into associating themselves with their fellow Christians in Turkey is after all a very natural one. Greek subjects living in Turkey avail themselves of necessity of the services of the Greek clergy subjects of the Sultan; they worship in the same churches as their co-religionists who are Ottoman subjects, and it is only to be expected that they will not disconnect themselves from the action of those of the same communion in whose interests they inevitably feel themselves concerned. The Home Government has no power to stop this, and can only discountenance it, as it has been careful to do.

With regard to the merits of the question, M. Deligeorges observed that it should be recollected that the privileges for which the Patriarch is contending are not to be regarded as analogous to those granted to foreigners by the Capitulations, but that they have always been considered as the birthright of the Hellenic subjects of the Sultan, guaranteed solemnly and continuously by His Imperial Majesty's predecessors, and looked upon by the beneficiaries in consequence as inviolable as long as the Mussulman religion continues to be the religion of the Ottoman State.

In the course of our conversation, M. Deligeorges said that it was particularly unfortunate that this question should have arisen at a moment when the new Government is anxious to show that it is a mistake to suppose that the King's present advisers are animated by a disposition hostile to Turkey. He could assure me that they are extremely desirous of cultivating the most friendly relations with the Ottoman Government; and that they would do all in their power to prevent this or any other question developing into a cause of bitterness between the two countries.

M. Deligeorges' language was so conciliatory and so moderate that I thought it advisable to make its tenour known at once to your Lordship in a telegram, which I have repeated to Sir William White.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, December 26.)

Sir,

Salonica, December 17, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of this afternoon I have the honour to transmit herewith inclosed copies of three despatches which I have received from Mr. Conémenos, acting British Vice-Consul at Prevesa, relative to the action of the

[155]

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Turkish authorities in suppressing the recent demonstrations at Janina and Prevesa in connection with the Greek Church question.

Mr. Conémenos reports that the exile of certain Greek Notables of the above-named places for the part they took in the demonstrations has excited much ill-feeling between the Christians and Mahomedans in Epirus, and that disturbances are apprehended in the approaching Christmas festival if the Turkish authorities continue their harsh measures.

While the demonstrations in Epirus, owing to the strong Greek national sentiment prevailing in that province, appear to have assumed a political and provocative character, which compelled the authorities to suppress them; those in Macedonia have been conducted in a peaceful and unostentatious manner. The leading Greek Notables here and in the interior studiously avoid doing anything likely to give offence or umbrage to the Turkish authorities, and I may add that the tact, forbearance, and loyal attitude of the Greek Archbishop of Salonica have been particularly evidenced in connection with this Church difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—After writing the above, I received from a trustworthy source the inclosed statement relative to the action of the Greek Consul at Serres in trying to get up a demonstration on the part of the Greek community there.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

Acting Vice-Consul Conémenos to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, le 8 Décembre, 1890.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que, selon la dernière dépêche que j'ai eu de Janina de la part de notre Agent, Mr. Kypriotis, après la démonstration qui a eu lieu dans cette ville pour les privilèges de l'Église Orthodoxe, le Gouvernement Local arrêta plus de vingt personnes, parmi lesquelles beaucoup des Notabilités du pays, que le Gouverneur-Général interrogea lui-même, ensemble avec quelques membres de son Conseil ("Idaré Medjliss"). Des dites vingt personnes quelques-unes ont été libérées après l'interrogation, mais on en a mis en prison une dizaine, que personne ne peut visiter sans permission.

Dimanche, 23 Novembre, Mr. Kypriotis visita, en privé, le Vali, et lui demanda ce qu'il a appert de ses interrogations.

Son Excellence répondit que les arrêtés n'ont pas commis un crime de lèse-Majesté, mais quoiqu'il a été prouvé qu'ils n'avaient que simplement l'intention d'adresser une exhortation relative à la question ecclésiastique, toutefois ils auraient dû procéder à cela par un Comité, et pas comme ils agirent, et que les interrogations ont été transmises à Constantinople.

Son Excellence ajouta qu'il considère le premier auteur de tout cela l'Archevêque de Janina, et ceux qui restent emprisonnés comme les auteurs de la démonstration; et qu'il attend de Constantinople des instructions sur ce qu'il doit en faire.

Le 28 Novembre un avocat de Janina, nommé Georges Golgos, ami des emprisonnés, ayant obtenu le permis de la sentinelle, les visita.

En sortant de la prison il rencontra le Chef Commissaire de Police, qui l'insulta, en lui demandant comment il entra la prison sans permission.

L'avocat répondit qu'il était entré avec la permission de la garde, et que le Commissaire se déporte [*sic*] en l'insultant à tort. Il partit de la Préfecture, mais après quelques minutes le Commissaire le rencontra de nouveau au marché, et donna ordre à deux soldats qui le suivaient de l'arrêter. Ainsi, en le poussant et l'insultant, ils le mirent en prison, et même on ne lui donna rien à manger le premier jour.

En général, les Musulmans de Janina regardent les Orthodoxes comme révolutionnaires, et ils sont effarouchés à un tel point qu'ils les maltraitent pour la moindre chose, de sorte que la position des Chrétiens est devenue insupportable.

Aussi à Prevesa, et généralement dans l'Épire, après ces derniers événements, la fermeture des églises et tout ce qui s'y rapporte; l'éloignement du Métropolitain bien chéri dans le pays; les arrestations, l'emprisonnement, et peut-être l'exil de ces pauvres gens, considérés comme des nouveaux martyrs de la religion, outre les

mesures prises par le Gouvernement Local pour la sécurité du pays, mesures qui ne cessent pas d'être que bien oppressives pour les habitants, &c. ; le fanatisme se ranime de part et d'autre, et il y a à craindre que si l'affaire continue de la sorte, les fêtes de Noël ne passeront pas sans accidents de graves conséquences.

J'ai, &c,
(Signé) CÉSAR CONÉMENOS.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, December 8, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, according to the last despatch which I received from our Agent at Janina, Mr. Kypriotis, the Local Government arrested more than twenty persons, amongst whom were many Notables of the country, whom the Governor-General examined himself, together with some members of his Council ("Idaré Medjliss"), after the demonstration which took place in that town in favour of the privileges of the Orthodox Church. Of the twenty persons aforesaid, some were set free after having been examined, but ten of them were imprisoned, and no one allowed to visit them without leave.

On Sunday, the 23rd November, Mr. Kypriotis visited the Vali privately, and asked him what had been the result of his investigation. His Excellency replied that the persons arrested had not been guilty of the crime of treason, but although it had been proved that they only had the intention of making a demonstration touching the Ecclesiastical question, they should nevertheless have proceeded to take such a step by means of a Committee, and not in the way they had acted, and that the result of the investigation had been sent to Constantinople.

His Excellency added that he considered the Archbishop of Janina to be the prime mover in all this business, and that those persons who still remained in prison were the authors of the demonstration; he said that he was awaiting instructions from Constantinople as to what he was to do in the matter.

On the 28th November a lawyer of Janina, whose name was Georges Golgos, a friend of the prisoners, visited them after having obtained leave to do so from the sentry.

He met the Chief Commissioner of Police as he was leaving the prison, and the latter insulted him, asking him how he had entered the prison without leave.

The lawyer replied that he had gone in with the guard's leave, and that the Police Commissioner was behaving badly in insulting him without reason. He left the Prefecture, but the Police Commissioner met him again in the market-place a few minutes later, and ordered two soldiers who were following him to arrest him. Thus, after pushing him along and insulting him, they put him in prison, and even gave him nothing to eat the first day.

The Mussulmans of Janina, as a rule, look upon people of the Orthodox Church as revolutionists, and they are excited to such a pitch that they ill-treat them for the slightest thing, so that the position of the Christians has become insupportable.

Besides this, at Prevesa and in Epirus generally, in consequences of these last occurrences, such as the closing of the churches and events connected therewith; the removal of their Metropolitan, who is much beloved in the country; the arrest, imprisonment, and perhaps the exile of these unfortunate people, who are looked on as fresh martyrs on behalf of their religion, not to speak of the measures adopted by the Local Government for the security of the country, measures which continue to be very oppressive for the inhabitants, fanatical feeling is reviving on all sides, and it is to be feared that if matters go on as they are doing now, the Christmas festival will not go by without trouble of a serious nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CÉSAR CONÉMENOS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

Acting Vice-Consul Conémenos to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, le 9 Décembre, 1890.

J'AI l'honneur de porter a votre connaissance que Jeudi passé, comme régulièrement chaque quinze jours, arriva à Prevesa le bateau "Kiamil Pacha," de la Compagnie Ottomane Mahsoussch sur lequel, ayant touché à Mourtos on y avait embarqué

[155]

N

les dix-sept emprisonnés pour la question ecclésiastique à Janina, pour être transportés à ce qu'on dit à Constantinople.

On ne permit pas à personne de les visiter, mais les familles de ceux de Prevesa ont envoyé sur le bateau leurs par-dessus, dont ils auraient peut-être besoin, ainsi que de l'argent. A ce qu'on dit sur le bateau on n'accepta des par-dessus que pour MM. C. Tolia et A. Harissis, ainsi que pas plus de £ T. 10 pour chacun des susdits deux prisonniers. Pour les autres on n'a pas voulu accepter ni habits ni de l'argent. Aussi on dit que ces derniers étaient même dans le bateau enchaînés. Le bateau en question quitta Prevesa Vendredi, 5 courant, emportant ces malheureux.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) CÉSAR CONÉMENOS.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, December 9, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the ship "Kiamil Pasha," belonging to the Ottoman Mahsousseh Company, arrived at Prevesa last Thursday, as it does regularly every fortnight, having on board the seventeen persons imprisoned on account of the ecclesiastical question at Janina, who, when the vessel touched at Mourtos, were put on board for conveyance, it is said, to Constantinople.

No one is allowed to visit them, but the families of those of them belonging to Prevesa have sent on board their greatcoats, which they might have need of, as well as money.

It is said on board that they only consented to take greatcoats for MM. C. Tolia and A. Harissis, and not more than £ T. 10 for each of the above-mentioned prisoners. They refused to take either clothes or money for the others. They say the latter were lying in chains on the vessel. The ship in question left Prevesa on Friday, the 6th instant, with these unfortunate people.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CÉSAR CONÉMENOS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 121.

Acting Vice-Consul Conémenos to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, le 9 Décembre, 1890.

J'AI l'honneur de vous annoncer qu'en ce moment j'ai reçu une dépêche de la part de notre Agent à Janina, Mr. B. Kypriotis, sous date 2 courant par laquelle il m'informe ce qui suit :—

"D'après dépêche télégraphique du Grand Vizir, Dimanche, 30 Novembre, on a éreillé a miniut les emprisonnés, onze de Janina et six de Prevesa, et les conduisirent à l'exil accompagnés par de détachements de troupe d'infanterie et cavalerie, voie Paramythia, pour être conduits, dit-on, en exil provisoire à Constantinople. Cette mesure prise de la part du grand Vizir provient du rapport de son Excellence le Vali. En preuve le journal du Vilayet de Janina de Vendredi passé annonçant officiellement qu'ils (les prisonniers) avaient battu dangereusement M. Zoides, ce qui est un mensonge, car moi-même une heure après le tumulte j'ai rencontré M. Zoides au marché bien portant."

Mr. Kypriotis ajoute : "La manière d'agir du Gouvernement Local a mortellement peiné les Orthodoxes, et même hier les familles des exilés se rendirent les larmes aux yeux à son Excellence le Vali en implorant son merci; mais il n'a pas consenti à les recevoir, et alors elles se dirigèrent aux Consuls étrangers, excepté notre Agence, pour supplier en faveur des exilés. Tous les Consuls les accueillirent avec des paroles de consolation et d'encouragement, excepté le Consulat d'Autriche, où elles n'ont pas été reçues."

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) CÉSAR CONÉMENOS.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Prevesa, December 9, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that I have just received from our Agent at Janina, Mr. B. Kypriotis, a despatch dated the 2nd instant, in which he informs me as follows :—

"In accordance with a telegram from the Grand Vizier, on Sunday, 30th

November, the prisoners, eleven from Janina and six from Prevesa, were awakened at midnight and led into exile, accompanied by detachments of infantry and cavalry, by the Paramythia road, to be taken, it is reported, into provisional exile at Constantinople. This step on the part of the Grand Vizier is the result of the report of his Excellency the Vali, who gave to the occurrences an interpretation quite contrary to the truth. As proof of this the Janina Vilayet newspaper of Friday last announced officially that they (the prisoners) had dangerously beaten M. Zoides, which is untrue, for an hour after the disturbance I myself met M. Zoides at the market perfectly well."

Mr. Kyriotis adds: "The proceedings of the Local Government have mortally offended the Orthodox, and yesterday the families of the exiles repaired with tears in their eyes to his Excellency the Vali, imploring his mercy; but he refused to receive them, and they then proceeded to the foreign Consulates, with the exception of our Agency, to petition in favour of the exiles. All the Consulates received them with words of consolation and encouragement, except the Austrian Consulate, where they were not admitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CÉSAR CONÉMÉNOS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 121.

Statement relative to the action of the Greek Consul at Serres with regard to the Greek Church Question.

M. METAXAS, the Greek Consul at Serres, in reporting under date 16th November, 1890, to the Ministry at Athens and to the Greek Legation at Constantinople that Bulgarian Agents were spreading a rumour to the effect that the closing of the Greek churches was a revolutionary step taken by the Patriarchate against His Majesty the Sultan and against the *statu quo*, asked for authority to arrange a demonstration in a sense contrary to this rumour. The Legation immediately answered that as the question was approaching a happy solution the Consul should not take any action in the matter. But on Thursday the 4th December, the Legation telegraphed to M. Metaxas that though the question of the Patriarchate was likely to be solved, still, as the Sublime Porte was every day making new concessions, it would be useful that demonstrations of a peaceful character should be made in all the provinces.

For this purpose M. Metaxas was authorized to act in such a way as to arrange a demonstration on the part of the Greek community, the demonstration being intended not to convey a demand, but to address a humble prayer through the Governor by telegram to His Majesty the Sultan. It seems that M. Metaxas cannot succeed in his design at Serres, since the Greek Notables are not disposed to sign the Petition.

The above information is entirely in accordance with the truth since at the same time and under the same form a like proceeding has taken place at Salonica and elsewhere.

No. 122.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, December 17, 1890.

I ASCERTAINED yesterday, in conversation with General Gruitch, that he takes the same unfavourable view as does the present Greek Government (according to Sir E. Monson's despatch to your Lordship of the 21st ultimo) of the course pursued by the Œcumenical Patriarch in ordering the Orthodox Greek churches throughout the Sultan's dominions to be closed.

His Excellency informed me that the Servian Consular Agents in Macedonia all report (as does Mr. Consul-General Blunt in his despatch to your Lordship of the 13th ultimo) an adverse feeling as having been evoked in their respective districts, and in another and no less reliable quarter I am told that in many of those localities waverers have, in consequence, definitively joined the Bulgarian Church.

Mr. C. Hardinge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)

My Lord,

Sophia, December 19, 1890.

IN the dispute between the Sublime Porte and the Greek Œcumenical Patriarch, the alternative measures for an amicable arrangement, as defined by M. Deligeorges in his interview with Sir E. Monson, and reported in his despatch of the 21st ultimo, afford one more proof that the question at issue is not confined to the maintenance of the traditional privileges of the Œcumenical Patriarch which the Porte desires to curtail, but that it is in close connection with the rivalry existing between the Greek and Bulgarian Churches in Macedonia, recently brought to a crisis by the appointment of two Bulgarian Bishops in that province.

As regards the alternative solution that the Bulgarian Bishops should be declared schismatics, and should wear some distinctive attire, I have taken steps to inquire indirectly the opinion of the higher ecclesiastical authorities as to whether such a proposal would be accepted by them, and Bishop Gregory, Metropolitan of Rustchuk, a very enlightened ecclesiastic, is of opinion that neither of these suggestions could be accepted, for, since the rites of the Bulgarian Church are precisely similar to the rites of the Greek Church, they would object to being called schismatics merely on account of the autocephalous position of the National Church, which he declares to be not inconsistent with the principles of true Orthodoxy.

As to wearing a distinctive attire, his Beatitude stated that such a mark would imply a position of inferiority, which could only serve to the detriment of the interests of the Bulgarian Church in Macedonia.

M. Stambouloff, whom I questioned yesterday on the subject, spoke in much the same sense, saying that he did not see any necessity for making concessions to Greek susceptibilities in this matter, more especially as such a course would certainly imperil the good relations recently established between the Government and the Holy Synod. His Excellency added that it was not probable that the Porte, which had hitherto abstained from all interference in questions of religious rites, would in this case deviate from its usual course.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

No. 124.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Athens, December 29, 1890.

THE King and M. Delyanni are very anxious at the continuance of the dispute between the Greek Patriarch and the Ottoman Government, and have asked me to inquire if Her Majesty's Government cannot take some action to bring about a settlement of the question before the advent of the Holy season.

Notice has been given in the Chamber of an interpellation on the subject, but the Government will decline to give any answer at present.

I have informed Sir William White.

No. 125.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, December 29, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to state that I have received Sir E. Monson's telegram, dated to-day.

The Porte seems to be most desirous of a settlement of the so-called Patriarchal question, but is constantly met with difficulties made by a small number of ill-advised Greeks.

The Greek population in Turkey has shown itself remarkably indifferent to the action of its own upper clergy in closing the churches.

*Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.—(Received at the Foreign Office,
December 30.)*

M. le Consul-Général,

Serres, le 20 Décembre, 1890.

LE 18 de ce mois, fête Grecque de Saint-Nicholas, une quantité d'habitants Chrétiens de Serres, artisans et commerçants, se sont rendus à la métropole, ou une députation s'est présentée au Métropolitain et en poussant des "hourras" pour Sa Majesté le Sultan elle a prié l'Archevêque de bien vouloir faire parvenir à Sa Majesté les sentiments de dévouement et soumission de la population Chrétienne de Serres et ses vœux que le Padischah, dans son amour bien connu pour ses sujets, daigne gracieusement laisser cesser la crise Patriarcale afin que les Orthodoxes puissent adorer Dieu dans leurs églises. L'Archevêque a parlé de Sa Majesté dans des termes très respectueux et avec des mots qui ont été accueillis par des nouveaux "Zitos!"

En assurant la foule qu'il ne manquerait d'être son interprète il l'a congédié en lui recommandant de nourrir toujours le même dévouement envers Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Le lendemain le Métropolitain recevait des Pétitions de toutes les paroisses de Serres rédigées dans le même sens. Il en a remis en personne copie au Mutessarif Djavid Pacha, récemment arrivé, en le priant de faire parvenir à Sa Majesté les sentiments de dévouement, et de respect des habitants Orthodoxes de Serres, et leurs vœux touchant la question des églises fermées. Son Excellence le Mutessarif a répondu qu'il agira conformément.

Les personnes allées à la métropole se sont comportées bien.

Le mauvais temps a été cause que la démonstration n'a été plus nombreuse.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) CONST. CAPETY.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général.

Serres, December 20, 1890.

ON the 18th of this month, the Greek festival of St. Nicholas, a number of Christian inhabitants of Serres, belonging to the artizan and commercial classes, met at the Metropolitan Palace, where a deputation of them went before the Metropolitan, and, with cheers for His Majesty the Sultan, begged the Archbishop to be kind enough to communicate to His Majesty the feelings of devotion and submission of the Christian population of Serres, and their hope that the Padishah, in his well-known love for his subjects, would graciously deign to permit the Patriarchal crisis to cease, in order that the Orthodox might worship God in their churches. The Archbishop spoke in very respectful terms of His Majesty, and used words which were greeted with fresh cheers.

He then dismissed the crowd, assuring them that he would not fail to act as their spokesman, and recommending them always to maintain the same devotion towards His Majesty the Sultan.

The following day the Metropolitan received Petitions from all the parishes of Serres, drawn up in the same sense. He handed copies of them in person to Mutessarif Djavid Pasha, who had just arrived, and begged him to convey to His Majesty the sentiments of devotion and respect felt by the Orthodox inhabitants of Serres, and their hopes as to the question of the closed churches. His Excellency the Mutessarif replied that he would act accordingly.

The persons who went to the Metropolitan Palace behaved themselves well.

The badness of the weather accounted for the demonstration not being more numerous.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CONST. CAPETY.

*Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.—(Received at the Foreign Office,
December 30.)*

M. le Consul-Général,

Cavalla, le 18 Décembre, 1890.

ARRIVÉ à peine à mon poste, je me suis fait un devoir d'étudier la question de la fermeture des églises Grecques au point de vue spécialement de l'effet qu'elle produit

sur les Orthodoxes de ce sandjack et du danger d'une émeute populaire capable de troubler l'ordre public. Voici les résultats de mes investigations:—

Dans le Sandjack de Drama, les églises Grecques ont été toutes fermées. L'ordre du Patriarcat a été exécuté sans trouble d'aucune espèce.

Les intelligents appartenant à la communauté Orthodoxe ne croient pas cette disposition ou mesure favorable au prestige du Patriarcat. Mais ils croient au contraire que les Bulgares auront tout à profiter de cet état de choses.

Les ignorants, de leur côté, ont pris la chose d'une manière on ne pourrait plus tranquille, au delà même de ce qu'on aurait pu croire pour une population peu éclairée qui a toujours confondu ensemble "Église et patrie."

En général les Orthodoxes pensent que du moment que l'Église Bulgare a voulu et obtenu de devenir indépendante du Patriarcat Grec, il serait juste que la dite nouvelle Église ait à changer en quelque chose son costume; et on a la conviction que si Sa Majesté le Sultan pourra amener les Bulgares à adopter un costume un peu différent pour son clergé, l'entente entre le Patriarcat Grec et la Sublime Porte pourrait être très vite rétablie.

Quant à la tranquillité publique elle est ici parfaite pour le moment, et il ne paraît pas probable qu'elle sera troublée pendant les fêtes de Noël—même si les Églises ne seront pas ouvertes jusqu'alors. Cependant sur ce point je ne veux et je ne puis pas émettre un jugement trop absolu, des circonstances imprévues pouvant surgir telles à changer tout à fait la situation.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) D. PECCHIOLI.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Cavalla, December 18, 1890.

NO sooner had I arrived at my post than I made it my duty to study the question of the closure of the Greek churches from the special point of view of the effect produced thereby on the Orthodox inhabitants of this sandjak, and of the danger of a popular rising of a nature to disturb public order. The results of my investigations are as follows:—

In the Sandjak of Drama, the Greek churches have all been closed. The order of the Patriarchate has been carried out without trouble of any kind.

The more intelligent members of the Orthodox community do not consider this order a measure favourable to the prestige of the Patriarchate. But, on the contrary, they believe that the Bulgarians will have everything to gain from this state of things.

The ignorant, for their part, have taken the matter perfectly quietly, more so even than might be expected in the case of unenlightened people, who have always confused "Church and State."

In general, the Orthodox believe that from the moment when the Bulgarian Church desired—and obtained its desire—to become independent of the Greek Patriarchate it would be right that the said new Church should have to change its costume in some manner, and the conviction is prevalent that if His Majesty the Sultan could bring the Bulgarians to adopt a slightly different costume for their clergy, a good understanding between the Greek Patriarchate and the Sublime Porte might be quickly restored.

With regard to public order, perfect tranquillity at present prevails, and it does not seem probable that it will be disturbed during the Christmas festivities, even if the churches remain closed till that date. On this point, however, I am unwilling and unable to pronounce an absolute judgment, as unforeseen circumstances may arise of such a nature as entirely to change the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. PECCHIOLI.

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205



TURKEY. No. 3 (1891).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE respecting Affairs in
the East

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 2 (1891):"
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